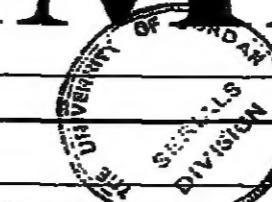


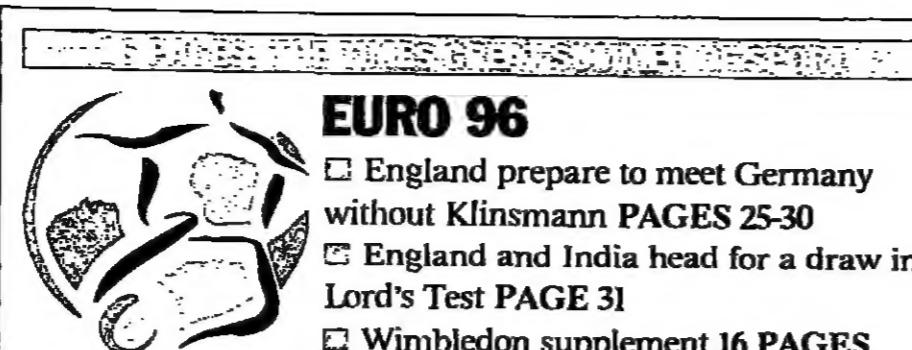
THE TIMES

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10 P
EVERY SUMMER MONDAY



Clear improvement by 11-year-olds

School tests give boost to Shephard

By JOHN O'LEARY AND ANDREW PIERCE



A DRAMATIC improvement in the standards achieved by 11-year-olds in this summer's national tests in English and mathematics has given a boost to Gillian Shephard's step-by-step approach to education reform.

On the eve of the announcement of radical plans to fulfil John Major's dream of a grammar school in every town, the test results, to be published later this year, have provided valuable ammunition for the Education and Employment Secretary.

Early projections by officials at the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority show 56 per cent reaching or exceeding the required level in English, compared with 48 per cent last year. A further 12 per cent are expected to be awarded higher passes, compared with 5 per cent last year.

In mathematics, the proportion meeting the standard is expected to increase from 44 to 53 per cent, with the higher-level pass rate also rising. Results in science are still the best of the three subjects tested.

Ministers, as well as teachers, faced a storm of criticism when last year's tests showed fewer than half of all pupils reaching the expected standard in English and mathematics before leaving primary school. But an analysis of the latest results shows a transformation in both core subjects.

Mrs Shephard's private opposition to a rapid acceleration in the grammar school programme, which will be announced tomorrow, has put her at odds with the Downing Street Policy Unit and angered right-wing Tory MPs who see the move as a vote winner.

The proposals will be unveiled by Mrs Shephard at the

this summer's results, leaked to *The Times*, shows a leap in performance. The disclosure will ease pressure on the minister who last week was given a warm reception at a private meeting of the executive officers of the 1922 Tory backbench committee.

With the good news on test results, and the launch of the White Paper, Mrs Shephard's supporters were hoping last night that the rumbles of discontent about her performance will cease.

Sir Malcolm Thornton, the former Tory education minister, who is chairman of the Commons education select committee, said Mrs Shephard had been vindicated by the test results. "They will help to rebut the unfair criticism which has been levelled at Gillian Shephard from her own side. The Shephard approach to reform, evolution and not revolution, is the right one."

Labour is planning to unveil tomorrow its own proposals to increase school funding by capping the amount a future government would allow local education authorities to spend on administration.

The Opposition will seek to embarrass Mrs Shephard by highlighting reports that she actively campaigned to close grammar schools, as a Norfolk county councillor, after the Conservatives legislated to further increases in selection.

Mrs Shephard, who was criticised by teachers last year for the decision to publish test results of 11-year-olds, was said to be relieved by the big improvement in the figures. Last year fewer than half of all pupils reached the expected standard in English and mathematics before leaving primary school. An analysis of

the political fortunes of the Conservative Party".

The Prime Minister's high

risk decision to put estimates for the first time on the removal of the ban, comes despite the absence of a timescale in the peace deal that ended the beef war at the European Union summit. The move comes as Cabinet ministers are increasing the pressure on John Major to sack or move Douglas Hogg from his post of Agriculture Minister. At least five ministers, including Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, Dr Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, and Roger Freeman, Public Service Minister, are leading the opposition to Mr Hogg.

His Commons statement will be welcomed by Conservative MPs who have been under pressure from farmers to give them hope of an early lifting of the ban. It is also designed to counter Labour claims that the embargo will still be in force at the time of the election.

The Prime Minister is also preparing for another con-

frontation with Europe by opposing any further moves towards integration. He has decided to use the EU's decision to hold two summits rather than one during the Irish presidency, which begins next month, to set out a sceptical platform highlighting the differences with Labour.

Mr Major is expected to say

that he will not allow progress in the inter-governmental conference (IGC) unless it shows it is prepared to take action to prevent the use of health and safety rules to impose the social chapter on Britain by

Continued on page 2, col 6

Birth of BSE, page 7
Florence summit, page 11
Peter Riddell, page 20

Beef ban over in months, says Major

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ANDREW PIERCE

JOHN MAJOR will tell MPs today that the European Union ban on British beef exports across the world should be lifted completely "within months".

He will also say that separate parts of the embargo, including that on prime beef from grass-fed herds with no history of BSE and young calves, should be raised as early as the autumn. He will say that he wants the ban to countries outside the EU, including South Africa, to be lifted sooner.

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risk decision to put estimates for the first time on the removal of the ban, comes despite the absence of a timescale in the peace deal that ended the beef war at the European Union summit. The move comes as Cabinet ministers are increasing the pressure on John Major to sack or move Douglas Hogg from his post of Agriculture Minister. At least five ministers, including Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, Dr Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, and Roger Freeman, Public Service Minister, are leading the opposition to Mr Hogg.

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The Prime Minister is also preparing for another con-

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Papandreu dies

The death of Andreas Papandreu, the Socialist firebrand of Greece, could remove an obstacle to the Europeanisation of the ruling Panhellenic Socialist and Movement, the party he founded. Page 9

Obituary, page 23

£5m 'parachute'

A golden parachute payment of £5 million has been arranged for Victor Rice, chief executive-elect of LucasVarity. He will get the payment if he is dismissed in the five years after the £2.2 billion merger of Lucas and Varity. Page 48

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Another day and another enemy for the press corps

By JOE JOSEPH

SIR Francis Drake has turned into Sir Winston Churchill overnight as Commander-in-Chief Terry Venables blossoms into Britain's all-purpose wartime saviour.

After beating Croatia yesterday, Germany, meet England in the semi-finals on Wednesday. Many people see the fixture as a ten-long-delayed Wembley replay of the 1966 World Cup Final, a game which convinced England that it really was a nation of footballers and which convinced Germany that England had pulled a fast one.

London's fury with Bonn over the beef war has only added spice to the match. Clausewitz was wrong: it's not war that is the continuation of politics by other means. It is football that is the continuation of war by other means.

Women everywhere are defiantly sewing lions to their sons' football shirts and selflessly offering to bear Alan Shearer's babies.

The British soccer reporters stationed at England's training ground-cum-Command HQ in Buckinghamshire send



Tickets fury, page 3
Euro 96 reports, pages 25-30

Howard carpets new prison chief

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HOWARD has clashed with the new Chief Inspector of Prisons and has tried to stop him discussing prison policy in public.

The Home Secretary acted amid concern in the Home Office and prison service over the high profile General Sir David Ramsbotham has presented since starting work seven months ago. His actions have included a dramatic walk-out at Holloway prison in north London in protest over conditions.

Sir David has publicly expressed scepticism about boot camps for young offenders and about a "supermax" jail to hold the most dangerous criminals. He has also suggested that prison health care should be contracted out to the NHS.

Mr Howard intervened after Sir David held a press conference on the second day of an inspection of Doncaster jail in South Yorkshire. At what was described as an "acrimonious" meeting in the Home Office, he told Sir David that he was expected to report to him, not the media.

The chief inspector was told that Mr Howard wanted in future to be told the outcome of

his inspections before the media.

Twelve days ago, when Sir David, 61, had planned to address a press conference about the treatment of women in prison and about women's safety, the Home Secretary made clear that he should not stray into areas of policy. As a result, Sir David's remarks were confined largely to the improvements in conditions he had found during a second inspection at Holloway.

Whitehall sources deny that Sir David has reprimanded Sir David, but a senior official said the Home Secretary had told him "quite firmly" that he should not stray into matters of criminal justice and prison policy. "The Home Secretary wishes to be consulted when Sir David is making public pronouncements," the official said.

Mr Howard's interventions follow remarks made by Sir David in which he appeared to have moved beyond his brief of inspecting prisons and reporting to the Home Secretary on the treatment of prisoners and conditions in the 135 jails in England and Wales.

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PLUS: Win a multimedia PC worth £4,000, in Interface

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PLUS: The best of books

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POP
Paul Sexton meets Roger Daltrey on the eve of the Who's Hyde Park reunion

SATURDAY

SUMMER OF 1864
Lynne Truss on painters, photographers, poets and the Isle of Wight
PLUS: Weekend, Car 96, Weekend Money, 1015 for young Times readers and Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide

EVERY DAY THIS WEEK: COLLECT TOKENS FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A TRIP TO THE OLYMPICS

Heseltine may lift monopoly on mail

By ANDREW PIERCE AND PHILIP BASSETT

MICHAEL HESELTINE has intervened in the postal dispute, threatening to suspend the Royal Mail's monopoly on delivering letters because of exasperation with the Department of Trade and Industry.

The Deputy Prime Minister was appalled that Friday's 24-hour strike by more than 100,000 workers, the first in the business for a decade, passed without a word of public condemnation from Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade.

Mr Heseltine has ordered Mr Lang to prepare to suspend the

monopoly on each day of the dispute to enable private operators to step in.

Mr Heseltine believes that the strike, the first in a series of planned one-day stoppages, offers ministers a rare opportunity to go on the offensive against the Labour Party. He is supported by Brian Mawhinney, the Tory Party chairman, who has used the dispute to attack Margaret Beckett, Shadow President of the Board of Trade, who is regarded in Tory circles as "old Labour".

Mr Lang has resisted the "politicisation" of his department and has refused to become embroiled in party politicking on the merits of the mail strike, which was called over

pay and working practices. He believes that a public and divisive intervention could wreck the peace talks due to start today between the Communication Workers' Union and the Royal Mail.

A DTI source said: "There is no benefit for us in meddling in this. Any intervention from us could be counter-productive and lead to a more prolonged strike."

The Royal Mail has a monopoly on letters that cost less than £1 to handle, and private firms are keen to be allowed into this delivery market. Yesterday it insisted that the suspension was an option that had been considered even before the interven-

tion of Mr Heseltine. A spokeswoman said: "Any question of suspending the monopoly would be considered in the light of prevailing circumstances. Nothing is ruled in or out."

If this week's planned further one-day stoppage on Thursday is followed by others, or extended into longer strikes, the DTI will come under heavy pressure from business to end the monopoly by being suspended.

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, yesterday accused the Government of trying to destroy the Post Office. "I would regard it as deeply damaging and indeed vindictive on behalf of the Government if it was to tackle the monopoly over the

letter supply by the Post Office. It is characteristic of this Government that given actually one big institution that works well and works efficiently, they want to destroy it," he told BBC TV's *Breakfast With Frost*.

He said that the post strike was a matter for the union, but Labour did not want to see another day of dispute.

The Communication Workers' Union has called a second 24-hour strike from next Thursday. The Royal Mail described the industrial action as "senseless" and said it had been making every effort to end the dispute. "Our patience is not inexhaustible," a spokesman said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Railways to lose safety committee

The rail industry's highest safety body is to be scrapped because of privatisation (Jonathan Bryan writes). The British Rail Joint Safety Committee will meet almost certainly for the last time in October, more than 20 years after it was set up.

The committee is the only nationwide safety body pooling the views of rail managers and workers, and meets quarterly. Lew Adams, head of the drivers' union Aslef, said the change was outrageous. A BR source said the fragmentation of the rail industry made change necessary.

Instead, discussions between workers and management about safety will take place on a less formal, local level. Legal responsibility for safety on the railways is being transferred to Railtrack.

Image of canny Scot 'not racist'

Advertising watchdogs have rejected complaints that a commercial which joked about the Scots being careful with money was "racist and offensive to the Scottish". Fifteen viewers complained about the advertisement for the B&Q chain in which a Scotsman said that the DIY stores had never had better deals and then added: "I should know, I'm a Scot." The Independent Television Commission said the comment was goodnatured.

Family angry at road rage claim

Kent Police yesterday dismissed suggestions that Stephen Cameron, who died in a stabbing near the M25 at Swanley, knew his killer. They said they were still treating the incident, a month ago, as a random attack resulting from a driving dispute. The families of Mr Cameron and his fiancée, Danielle Cable, said they were angered by the suggestion and described them as a "pack of lies".

Elderly couple found murdered

An elderly couple have been found murdered in their home. The bodies of Joseph Ploch, 86, and his wife Kornelia, 82, were discovered by police on Saturday afternoon in Fulfham, west London, reported that they had not been seen for several days. A post-mortem revealed that the couple had been strangled. Mrs Ploch had facial injuries. Police, who have launched a murder hunt, said they were not aware of a motive.

Call for refunds over roadworks

Britain's 25 million motorists should be given rebates on their car tax when too much of the road network is under repair, the Automobile Association claims today. John Dawson, the policy director, is calling for a payment of £10 for every month that standards slip under the Highway Agency's Road User's Charter, which says that 93 per cent of lanes on motorways and trunk roads should be free from roadworks at all times.

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mail

Railways
to lose
safety
committee

Ticket fury at Wembley as 12-hour queue is told: you should have phoned

By JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS
CORRESPONDENT

EXTRA police were called to Wembley box office yesterday as angry football fans threatened officials who refused to sell them tickets for the Euro 96 semi-final. England supporters had travelled hundreds of miles and queued all night, only to discover their bookings had to be made by credit card over the phone.

Thousands who tried to ring the box office from around Britain heard only a dead-line tone, caused when a massive number of calls are received on one number.

Some supporters queued for more than 12 hours in the hope of buying one of the remaining 3,000 seats when the stadium opened at 9am yesterday. They insisted that a message on the stadium's answering machine did not make clear that there would be no personal sales, as had been the custom for the quarter-final against Spain.

About 40 fans spent the night in sleeping bags, and others travelled through the night from as far afield as Newcastle and Leicester. Many refused to disperse despite being told no tickets were available.

After three hours of negotiations between UEFA, the European governing body, the Football Association and Wembley, they were promised first call on any tickets returned out of the 7,000 seat-allocation to England's opponents for the Wednesday match.

Hours later, the fans' worst fears were realised as Germany beat Croatia 2-1 in their quarter-final at Old Trafford. The Germans are expected to take up their full allocation.

One supporter, Don Harris, 33, from Northampton, said: "We watched the Saturday's game on television, telephoned the box office and then drove down straight here. We slept on the steps all night, only to get this news. I do not think I will come back to Wembley again."

Neil McManus, 29, from

England's victory over Spain on Saturday attracted the largest television audience of Euro 96 so far, with nearly 18 million viewers for the penalty shoot-out in the game's last minutes. It was the second biggest television audience ever for a football match in Britain and the highest ratings for the game since England lost to West Germany on penalties in the World Cup on July 4, 1990. That match attracted 25.21 million viewers.

The BBC and ITV will compete head-on for the Euro 96 semi-finals on Wednesday, with both channels promising full live coverage for the afternoon and evening games. The two channels have alternated their coverage up to now, but neither broadcaster feels it can afford to miss the remaining matches. BBC's live coverage of Saturday's match attracted an average audience of nearly 15 million, giving it an audience share of 84 per cent.

Television, page 47

Leicester, said: "I think the organisation has been terrible. Somebody should take the responsibility for this."

They received support from David Mellor, the former National Heritage Secretary. Speaking on LWT's *CrossTalk*, he described the situation as a farce, adding: "Football is the only industry where the fans are treated appallingly, even though they are the customers. This is quite wrong."

Steve Baker, 41, teacher from Stevenage, Hertfordshire, arrived at the ground at 4am and watched as the crowd grew. He said: "The police here are obviously concerned by the crowd. I've got a 13-year-old son who has a once in a lifetime chance to see something like this. I don't want to go back to him and say



Children waiting in the sun at Wembley Stadium as supporters queue in vain for semi-final tickets

reasons, not to sell them at the box office. It would also have been unfair on people who live in places such as Liverpool and Manchester, to have expected them to travel to London to get seats. This competition is being staged by England, not London."

"I can understand the frustration of the fans but they must understand that there are thousands of other dedicated fans who want to be at Wembley on Wednesday."

More than 1.3 million tickets have been sold for the tournament, which has been plagued by problems in the distribution of seats. Last month, Trevor Phillips resigned as the FA's commercial director to save the governing body from "embarrassment", when several London companies offering hospitality packages were raided by the police.

Euro 96 also had to withhold the sale of some seats at Old Trafford because plans to segregate fans had not been completed.

Fighting broke out between Spanish locals and about 50 British holidaymakers on the Costa del Sol after Saturday's match. Bottles and stones were thrown between supporters from both sides on the seafront at Fuengirola.

English and Spanish bar owners agreed that a small number of England fans had started the trouble. The fighting flared outside the London Bar, where a spokesman said: "There were a small group of Spanish teenagers all aged around 13. They were standing opposite the terrace of the pub chanting 'Espana' over and over. At first the English fans chanted back and were laughing, but then one of them threw a bottle across the road.

A young Spanish girl was very lucky and the bottle just skimmed past her face and smashed on the ground." After the first missile, a hail of glasses and stones was aimed at the youngsters, who then retaliated. The police arrived and managed to get a few of the English fans in the back of a van, but the real trouble makers got away," he said.

Euro 96, pages 25-30

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"I saw all the cars arriving and they were all so smart and shiny again," the author Jill Cooper said. "The glamour is definitely back."

Match report, page 36



Tarquin Southwell, 24, has been singled out as this season's best young player

Polo crowds silence the doubters

By GRACE BRADBERRY

THE polo world is celebrating the return of youth and money to the sport after several seasons when it seemed that the game might be losing its pukka image.

Society commentators were sounding the death knell last year when Cartier talked of its involvement because the game was no longer considered chic. But yesterday the Alfred Dunhill Queen's Cup final was a sell-out, raising hopes of enduring appeal.

"I saw all the cars arriving and they were all so smart and shiny again," the author Jill Cooper said. "The glamour is definitely back."

Lord Patrick Beresford, a leading figure on the polo circuit, said: "There's a lot of money in polo now. There are also a lot more good young British polo players."

Two of the most talented young players, Tarquin Southwell, 24, and Julian Daniels, 21, were on opposing sides at Smith's Lawn, Windsor, yesterday. Mr Southwell has been singled out by insiders, and many female fans, as this season's best young player. He is one of a new breed who have worked their way up through smaller clubs.

In the final Ellerton White defeated Alcatel by eight goals to six. The Queen presented the prizes.

Victory is sweet for the common golfer

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

AN EXCLUSIVE golf club whose members include the Duke of Kent has lost the battle to ban commoners from its greens and fairways.

Officials at Huntercombe Golf Club failed to persuade South Oxfordshire District Council to change a bylaw and end a tradition dating back to the 12th century. The council decided unanimously that the club cannot stop local non-members playing golf on Nuffield Common.

The decision ended an eight-year fight in which the club, which has a ten-year waiting list, was pitched against parish councillors, the local vicar and three quarters of Nuffield village.

Officials of the club, which was built in the 1990s, wanted it to be reserved for the members who pay a £1,000 joining fee and £400 a year membership. The secretary, Lieutenant Colonel Tom Hutchison, a retired Royal Engineers officer, had argued there should be no free golf.

Lucinda Ellis, of the Nuffield Common Conservation Association, said villagers were delighted at the decision. "It was a 100 per cent unanimous vote. Everything will stay as it is — the same as it has been for hundreds of years."

The rector of Nuffield, the Rev John Shearer, 60, who is also a member of the conservation association, said: "I never really thought the club had a chance of changing such a thing."

The club captain, Michael Newell, said the council's decision to do nothing meant members would have to live with the problem of large numbers of golfers taking advantage of the bylaw stating that people in the district had the privilege, not the right, to play games on the Common.

He said: "Over the years that has been taken to mean golf, but it seems arguable. The problem is not so much that some people are not paying, it is the sheer volume of people coming onto the course not covered by the club's insurance."

"We will just have to live with the decision."

Wives must wait in the wings as players toe the no-party line

By CAROL MIDGLEY

HAVING been denied the luxury of champagne, or even tequila, to toast their quarter-final victory, England's football heroes are doing without another home comfort this week — their wives.

Terry Venables, their coach, has told the squad they must remain within the confines of their *Buckinghamshire* retreat and abstain from seeing wives, girlfriends and families until their final match is over.

On Saturday night the players, exhausted from the grueling match against Spain in which they endured 30 minutes of extra time and a penalty shoot-out, were allowed only mineral water and soft drinks.

Although most of their partners took their seats at Wembley — Paul Gascoigne's fiancée Sheryl Kyle arrived at the stadium in a Cadillac with

their baby son Regan — they will not be guests at the Burnham Beeches Hotel, where Venables has transformed into a small fortress to keep out the press. He is desperate to protect them from publicity which may affect their concentration.

Yesterday Liz Pearce, wife of the defender Stuart who kept his nerve to score the penalty that eluded him in the 1990 World Cup, refused an offer of £20,000 from a tabloid newspaper to talk about the nerve-wracking ordeal of watching her husband take the shot.

Mr Venables said: "I'd like to be able to let them out of the

hotel to enjoy themselves — they've earned that — but I can't. I think they should be allowed to see their wives, girlfriends and families. But they understand. It's just one more week."

The real hope is they will be able to do exactly what they want after the final next Sunday."

During the 1990 World Cup, all the players' wives attended the games but were segregated from their men. Famously, for the celebrations after the victory, they were required to attend a separate dinner.

Among the partners waiting patiently in the wings this year are Lainya Shearer, the 25-year-old wife of striker Alan.

The couple have been married for five years and have two daughters. However, Mrs Shearer admits that she is not a great fan of football and watches only when her husband is playing.

Mother dies on drive to graveside

By CAROL MIDGLEY

TWO children were orphaned yesterday when their mother was killed while taking them to visit their father's grave.

Kathleen Leach, 37, a hospital telephone operator, from Frimley, Surrey, died when her car ran out of control and rolled over near Farnborough, Hampshire. Her children, Clare, 9, and Stephen, 7, strapped in the back seat, survived.

They were on their way to the Aldershot Military Cemetery to visit the grave of their father, a serving soldier who died from a heart attack two years ago. Mrs Leach was taken to Frimley Park Hospital, where nurses recognised her as a colleague.

Sergeant Nick Harris said: "The family were on their way to visit their father's grave when the accident happened. Now those little kiddies have lost their mum as well. Kathleen came from a big family and relatives are now with the children."

Penfriends across the Atlantic meet at last after 55 years

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

TWO penfriends who forged an enduring relationship for 55 years across the Atlantic met yesterday for the first time.

Eileen Coventry and Mary Scheerschmidt, both 66, started their monthly correspondence between Berkshire and Alberta, Canada, at the beginning of the Second World War, but never even

spoke on the phone. Their letters have taken them through four marriages and seven children between them. During the war, Mrs Scheerschmidt's family sent food parcels to her English friend to help her through the years of rationing.

At Mrs Coventry's cottage near Newbury, the two women explained how their friendship started in 1941 when a friend of Eileen,

wrote to a newspaper in Canada asking for penpals. She was inundated with replies and passed one to Eileen from Mary Carliss, an 11-year-old from Stettler, Alberta. "I remember receiving a letter with a tiny photo of Eileen inside," Mrs Scheerschmidt recalled. "I thought she looked nice and I wrote straight back."

Both women confessed to nerves about their first meeting. "It made me think why on earth didn't we phone each Christmas and birthdays," Mrs Scheerschmidt said. Mrs Coventry said: "Finally meeting was emotional and I had butterflies but we really are the best of friends and we are having a lovely time." Their husbands, Raymond and Bernard, both retired farmers, are also getting along famously.

The two women are planning lots of long walks before Mrs Scheerschmidt's return to Canada on Friday. Mrs Scheerschmidt said: "I want her to take me to all the old haunts that she used to write to me about."

Mary Scheerschmidt, left, and Eileen Coventry

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AD 0355

BMA backs nurse who performed 200 operations

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

PATIENTS have nothing to fear from nurses who operate on them, provided that doctors retain overall responsibility for their care, the British Medical Association said yesterday.

Doctors' leaders defended a nurse who claimed to have carried out more than 200 operations unsupervised but warned others that they must not attempt surgical procedures beyond their competence.

Gillian Erickson, 47, who is a theatre nurse at Clatterbridge Hospital, Wirral, has been performing the operations since undergoing specialist training last year. They mostly involve minor surgery to remove lumps from the hand under local anaesthetic. She also performs investigations of the cervix for signs of cancer after an abnormal cervical smear.

Nurses elsewhere are doing similar work after a 1992 recommendation by the UK Central Council for Nursing that

their role be extended to minor surgery, running clinics and prescribing drugs.

Medical organisations have argued that the practice frees doctors to perform the more complex procedures for which they have been trained. But the BMA gave warning yesterday that nurses undertaking surgical procedures must obtain prior consent from the hospital trust and the patient and keep to strict protocols, and that doctors must remain overall responsibility.

Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the BMA's council, said on GMTV yesterday: "Why shouldn't nurses carry out simple operative techniques? Midwives have been doing it for a very long time and, after all, delivery is a major operation of a kind. So long as you have doctors available with the necessary specialist skills as required, simple procedures can quite safely be carried out by nurses."

Mrs Erickson, a theatre

nurse for almost 20 years, is reported to have sought permission from hospital managers to take up the scalpel after becoming convinced she could use it better than some junior doctors she assisted. She now draws up her own surgical lists and has been asked by the Wirral Hospital Trust, which manages Clatterbridge Hospital, to help informally in training junior doctors.

Mrs Erickson said: "I had watched these operations being performed over and over again and felt I was more capable of doing them than a junior doctor who had been qualified for only a few months. So in a fit of pique, I wrote a business proposal and sent it to the director of the hospital. I was surprised and pleased when it was accepted."

Mrs Erickson had training in local anaesthetic techniques, the removal of growths and suturing. She claimed to have a low compli-

cations rate "which is proof I am doing well". Managers at the hospital fully backed Mrs Erickson yesterday and said many nurses in Britain were doing similar work. Paul Holt, chief nurse at Wirral Hospitals Trust, said it enhanced care "because it gives surgeons more time to carry out the more specialised major procedures which only they can perform".

Leading article, page 21

SCIENTISTS using a virus to destroy cancer cells said yesterday that early tests were "very promising" but a cure remained a long way off.

Three men in Glasgow with severe throat cancers have been receiving the new treatment since April. Two more patients will join the trial today as part of clinical trials in Scotland and America. The

work at Glasgow and San Antonio, Texas, originated in 1978, when Dundee scientists discovered a gene protein p53, which is altered or damaged in most human tumours.

The genetically-engineered virus developed by an American firm, Onyx, can attack cells which have a malfunction of this gene, but leaves others intact.

Research at Sheffield University has found that babies with persistent hyperinsulinaemic hypoglycaemia of infancy — causing overproduction of insulin — have a key protein missing in the pancreas. Screening in the womb could now pinpoint cases for gene therapy, and the discovery may improve understanding of diabetes.

Gillian Erickson, a theatre nurse for almost 20 years, performs a surgical procedure to remove skin lesions

Anti-cancer virus 'promising'

SIX OUT OF TEN OF BRITAIN'S MOST SUCCESSFUL COMPANIES SUPPORT THE TERRITORIAL ARMY.

CASES of giardiasis have been reported among members of the Harbour Club in Chelsea. The club, whose most famous member is the Princess of Wales, specialises in keeping the rich and tanned of London in peak physical condition, and not unnaturally is outraged at the suggestion that its water supply might have given its patrons an unpleasant form of intestinal infection.

Unpleasant return from exotic travel

MEDICAL BRIEFING

The club authorities have posted notices explaining that the swimming pools have been drained and cleaned and that health experts have failed to find any source of the infection on the premises.

Unlike many causes of infective diarrhoea, giardiasis affects the small intestine rather than the large bowel. It is caused by a parasite, *Giardia lamblia*, found throughout the world, although it flourishes where sanitation is primitive and the water supply and drains are close.

As the Harbour Club has 3,750 members who pay a £2,500 entrance fee and a £1,200 annual subscription, it would not be surprising if many of its members did not travel to exotic spots at this

time of year and bring back to this country both a deep tan and the parasites of *Giardia lamblia* hanging by suckers to the wall of the duodenum and jejunum. The club so far has 20 cases, a figure that could be described as disturbing but not alarming.

Giardiasis is not only spread by contaminated water supplies but also by direct contact with infected faeces. It is one of the intestinal diseases commonly spread by sexual intercourse. Its spread is assisted by the lack of severe symptoms in two thirds of its victims. The other third has severe symptoms including cramping abdominal pain, nausea, flatulence, loss of appetite, fever and diarrhoea.

Reports that giardiasis does not respond to antibiotics are inaccurate. Flagyl metronidazole is effective but has one disadvantage: it can be toxic when alcohol is drunk during the course of treatment. There could be a few sunburned teenagers among the spectators at Wimbledon and Henley this year.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

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Chemists' remedies fail to cut GP visits

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

BRITAIN is becoming a nation of pill poppers but the increasing trend to self-medication is not deterring patients from visiting their GPs.

Spending on medicines available without prescription has increased by more than half since 1990 but the rise has failed to cut GP workloads or the NHS drugs bill.

Professor Alan Maynard, director of the Centre for Health Economics at York University, says there is no evidence that patients are using drugs more effectively, despite spending £1.25 billion each year on medicines sold over the counter.

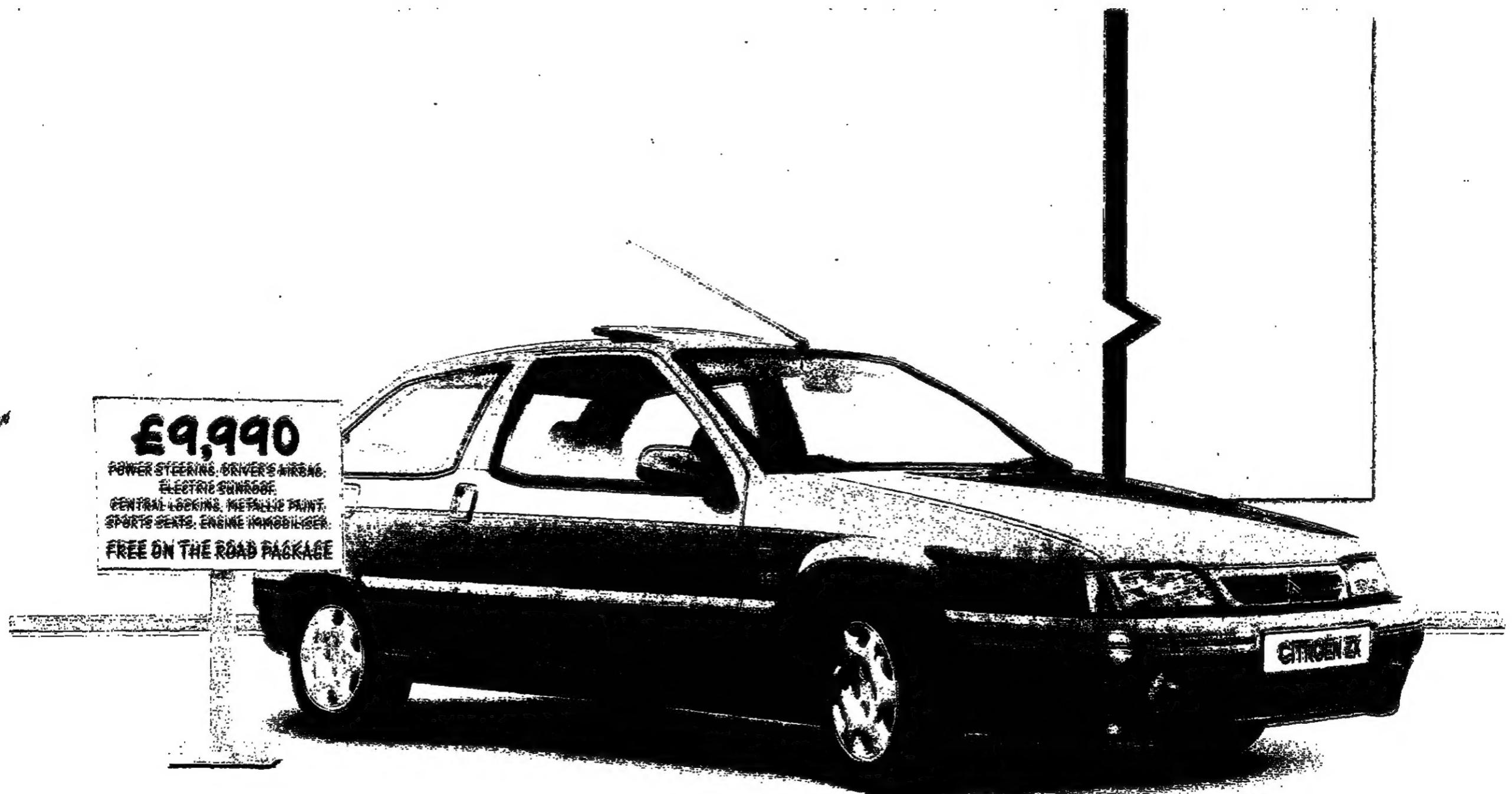
In *Over the Counter Medicines*, published today by the Social Market Foundation, he says a radical overhaul of primary care is needed, giving pharmacists a greater role, if self-medication is to cut NHS costs. Patients need to be persuaded to seek pharmacists' advice rather than going straight to their GP, and doctors require incentives to cut down prescriptions.

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Punch-drunk Irish keep England's boisterous stag parties at bay

By AUDREY MAGEE

THE English fashion for rowdy stag weekends is testing the patience of the Irish. Some publicans and hoteliers in Dublin have become so weary of the partygoers' drunken antics that they have told them their custom is no longer wanted.

The landlords, famed for their hospitality, say the stag parties are driving locals from their bars at weekends and spoiling the country's image. Other tourists are said to be disturbed by boisterous, inebriated men. Conor McCarthy,

chairman of the Ryan chain of hotels, said stag parties should be banned. "We have a very good product based on our culture, heritage warmth and friendliness. I don't think stag weekends fit in easily."

The Irish capital became a popular venue for English pre-nuptial celebrations five years ago.

Flights now cost as little as £59 return and alcohol, once expensive, costs about the same as in London.

Each weekend about 20 stag parties, totalling approximately 300 men, congregate around Temple Bar, an enclave of pubs, clubs and restaurants. The participants often wear T-shirts emblazoned with the groom's name. Most of the 35 pubs in Temple Bar restrict access for stag parties. They are banned from smaller pubs, such as the Auld Dubliner which barred them two years ago.

Night on the Town, a company which organises tours of Dublin's clubs and pubs, said stag parties were synonymous with trouble.

Margaret Lynch, a company spokeswoman, said none of the hotels it deals with accommodated stag-party members: "It is the

hotels' policy not to have them because of the way they wreck the place when they get drunk. These guys are drinking from the minute they get up in the morning to the time they leave."

Frank Kelly, barman at the Oliver St John Gogarty in Temple Bar, said they regularly asked the English groups to leave the premises: "We see the Scots or the Welsh and they will head off for the afternoon to do something else, but these lads start early in the morning and keep drinking until they drop."

Robby Flaherty, barman at the Palace Bar, said the stags harassed women and intimidated other customers. Two years ago he called the police to remove about 15 English "stags" stripped naked and marching on the bar.

Stags can spend hundreds of pounds during a weekend. This was once welcome cash but in the past two years tourism in Dublin has grown 40 per cent and publicans and hoteliers can now be more selective about customers.

Paul McDaid, manager of the Temple Bar Hotel, said stag parties had been accepted when the hotel opened about two years ago

but they were now discouraged because rooms had been destroyed and other customers disturbed. On occasion, however, the staff got caught out when a stag party booked in as a golfing or cricket club. "We meet them on arrival and lay down the rules of the house. If they do any damage then they know they will pay for it and we inspect their bedrooms before they leave," Mr McDaid said.

Bord Failte, the Irish Tourist Board, does not advertise for stag weekends. John Browne, a spokesman, said the word had been passed around in England about the good "craic" to be had in Dublin. Some British tour operators offer weekend deals.

Martin Deegan, barman at the Temple Bar pub, said the area would have to reconsider its attitude to stag parties if it wanted to continue to attract all sectors of society. "Temple Bar is only starting up and most of the construction work is only just finished. It would be a stupid mistake if we gained a name as somewhere to go to get drunk. We have to maintain an upmarket image. That won't happen if we keep having stag parties."

Japanese are accused of slaughtering rare whale

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the world's rarest whales has been slaughtered by Japanese fishermen in defiance of a conservation agreement, environmentalists claimed yesterday.

At the opening of the International Whaling Commission meeting in Aberdeen, a marine biologist with the International Fund for Animal Welfare said they had evidence that Japan had killed a western Pacific grey in recent weeks.

Vassilios Papastavrou said: "The Western Pacific stock is threatened and may number just a few tens of animals. It is on the verge of extinction." The killing of just one would be highly damaging.

There were originally three stocks of grey whales. The Atlantic stock, which lived between the Bay of Biscay and Iceland, is extinct. The eastern North Pacific stocks up to 21,800 since conservation efforts.

The alleged incident was unearthed by a Japanese member of the group on his country's North Island, where local people kill dolphins using hand-held harpoons. Mr Papastavrou said the evidence was that the whale had been killed deliberately — markings on the head appeared to be from whalers' knives.

The case will create concern

that the International Whaling Commission, set up in 1946, is losing the battle to regulate whaling. In theory, there has been worldwide ban on commercial whaling since 1986, but Japan and Norway have continued to hunt minke whales.

Japan claims it still needs to kill them for scientific research, even though the meat and blubber is sold in markets and restaurants. This year its fleet returned with 440 minke whales — more than 100 up on last year.

Conservation groups said that despite a worldwide perception that whaling is an industrial industry, an estimated 665 whales are expected to be killed in 1997, against 646 eight years ago.

DNA fingerprinting of whale meat indicates that several species — including sei, fin and bryde's — are entering the Japanese market unofficially.

A request by the Makah Indians of Seattle, Washington, to be allowed to take five Eastern Pacific grey whales for "ceremonial purposes" was described by two tribal members in Aberdeen yesterday as being about money rather than approved cultural need.

Letters, page 21



Many doubt that the music of Jarvis Cocker of Pulp, left, and Liam Gallagher of Oasis will last — unlike that of the universally revered Beatles

Britpop generation puts its faith in the golden oldies

By PETER FOSTER AND ADRIAN LEE

YOUNG people of the Britpop generation believe the best music was written before they were born and the work of their own heroes is unlikely to stand the test of time.

In a survey of attitudes to music, the 1960s emerges as the decade which has produced the best rock and pop.

Even among fans aged 16 to 24, half believed that today's stars, Oasis, Blur and the recently departed Take That, are destined for the musical dustbin.

The young regard Oasis as the best band of the Nineties, while there is agreement among people from all generations that the Beatles were the greatest group of the Sixties.

"One of the worrying things about rock today is that there

is too much of a consensus. From 15 to 50 year olds, all can agree about what's any good, which deprives rock of its seductive element. My dad thought David Bowie was the Whore of Babylon but now my 16-year-old son and I both listen to Oasis."

Unsurprisingly, over 90 per cent of those who grew up in the era of the Beatles and Rolling Stones backed their own generation.

David Jensen, a radio presenter for 30 years, said that rock music had lost the all-encompassing, spiritual dimension it had for the children of the Sixties. People had forgotten how seriously the records were taken.

He added: "Today rock music has to compete with all the other forms of entertainment open to young people in the Nineties. Video games, karting tracks and sport are now all equally as important as music."

Asked to name the rock event from history that they would have liked to have attended, more than a quarter in the poll said the tribute concert to Freddie Mercury of Queen. The first gig by the Beatles came second.

And indeed, if the audience were expecting a second

Not much anarchy in the UK today

Caitlin Moran finds little left of the punk revolution after joining fans on the way to the Sex Pistols' reunion in north London

THE road to London's Finsbury Park, where the Sex Pistols yesterday staged their much-hyped reunion, is littered with the debris of the punk revolution, 1996 style.

Three or four dozen men in their late thirties, wearing faded Sex Pistols T-shirts, were slumped in semi-conscious, beery heaps. The revolution will be something they read about in the newspapers and see on television.

The teenagers who had turned out seemed to feel they had missed out on the youth ferment of the 1960s and 1970s. "Oasis and Blur are rubbish," Nathan, 18, said.

"They are not anything to get excited about. Most British music is boring."

"We are here to see Iggy Pop and the Pistols — but it's been quite dull so far," James, 17, said. "I thought there would be a bit of excitement; someone might wreck the ice-cream vans or the burger stalls."

And indeed, if the audience were expecting a second

attempt at the punk revolution, which produced such notorious Pistols' numbers as *Anarchy in the UK*, they were disappointed.

But when punk emerged in the 70s it was somewhat bungled — tours were cancelled, inter-band squabbling diluted any clear punk ethos, and most of the prime movers happily took their profits when it fizzled out. The real changes that punk brought about were within the music industry: the Pistols' Finsbury support band, the Buzzcocks, started a trend for independent band-managed labels.

Any feelings that today's youth may have about "missing out" can be put down to self-celebratory PR by retired punks and hippies. However, judging from the Pistols' rather muted reunion last night, there is nothing to be nostalgic about save for the fact that attending such a gig in the 1970s would have cost £1: rather than £25 plus parking, plus T-shirt, plus programme, plus babysitter ...

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man dies after fight outside nightclub

A young father has been beaten to death in a brawl outside a nightclub. Alan Mulloy, 22, a landscape gardener, had been with friends at JDs club in Billingham, Cleveland, when two gangs began fighting in the car park. Detectives believe that he was caught up in the violence and died after being kicked and punched.

Lorraine Ford, 18, with whom Mr Mulloy lived in Port Clarence, Stockton-on-Tees, is five months pregnant with their second child. Their son Luke is 18 months old.

Thai drug puzzle

Immigration police in Thailand were checking to see if Lisa Marie Smith, 20, accused of drug offences, had left the country after being freed from Lard Yao prison in Bangkok. She was released after her father, Terence Smith, made a bail payment of £40,000.

Violent visits

Violent fathers use visits to their children, allowed by the courts, to continue abusing their former partners, according to a study funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

It calls for a ban on contact with children for men with a history of domestic violence.

Actor's dog kills

The actor William Roache was facing possible prosecution after his pet labrador killed a neighbour's dog. His pets have attacked the dogs of Audrey Jolley, 83, twice before. The Coronation Street star, of Wilmslow, Cheshire, was questioned by police.

Walk into a job

Chris Owen, 27, has found a job as a hotel gardener in Corsica after walking 232 miles from his home in Pontnewydd, Gwent, to London for the interview because his jobcentre refused to pay travel costs. His search for work began in 1992 after a gardening course.

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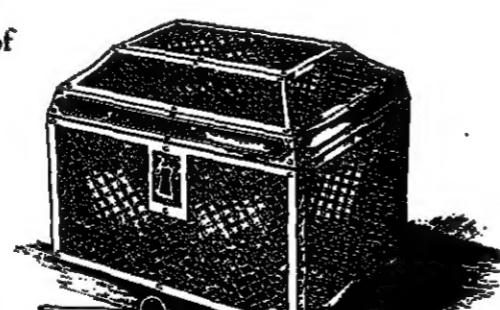
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Farmer describes horror at seeing the birth of BSE

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE manager of the farm where "mad cow" disease was first identified has spoken publicly for the first time of his horror as he watched a mysterious illness in one cow turn into a national disaster.

Eleven years ago, at Plurenden Manor Farm near High Halden, Kent, Tom Forsyth and his head dairy stockman first noted the symptoms later to be diagnosed as BSE. He said: "Looking back over the years since then, horror is the only word to describe my feelings — horror that we had got something that seemed to be out of control."

"We did not know where it was coming from and we did not know how to put it right. Even now the origin of the disease is still not known for certain."

In April 1985 a cow called Jonquil started behaving oddly. The stockman, John Green, was in charge of the herd of 300 Holstein Friesians. Now

retired, he said: "From being a nice quiet cow, she had turned into a nuisance in the milk parlour, acting aggressively towards the other cows. She seemed to be hallucinating."

The men's first thought was that Jonquil might be suffering from "grass staggers", which can affect cattle after they are turned out to lush grass in the spring. Caused by a shortage of magnesium in the bloodstream, it is characterised by shivering and staggering, symptoms superficially similar to those of BSE.

The cow did not respond to the usual treatment. Colin Whitaker, the local cattle vet, found she had cystic ovaries. He said: "I treated the ovaries, which got better, but the cow did not. She got worse and was very unsteady on her feet. I thought she might have a brain tumour or abscess."

Eventually Jonquil was put down. For six months or more,

no similar cases appeared. Mr Forsyth hoped that the condition was one of the unexplained curiosities farmers encounter from time to time. Then, at the start of 1986, several more cows went down with identical symptoms.

Mr Forsyth realised he was dealing with something new and frightening. He said: "With our vet, we considered a whole range of possible causes, from lead poisoning to rabies, but nothing made sense."

The decision was taken to alert the Ministry of Agriculture. For the first time, in November 1986, pathologists at the Central Veterinary Laboratory at Weybridge, Surrey, diagnosed an encephalopathy similar to scrapie in sheep. This led to the hypothesis that BSE had been caused by cattle feeding containing sheep remains.

Mr Forsyth said: "It was hard to believe that a scrapie-

like disease could have passed to cattle. Sheep had had scrapie for centuries and had been living together with cattle without any problems. Farmers had been including meat and bone meal in cattle rations since the 1920s."

Since 1986, he has seen "many" cows on his farm go

down with BSE — he declines to give an exact number — among a toll of 160,000 across the nation. As many as 140 of his 300 dairy cows could be lost under the new cull agreed by Britain at the Florence summit. This will target cattle regarded as being at special risk of developing BSE

because they were reared alongside animals that have already died of the disease. Plurenden Manor Farm is still flourishing. It is part of R. Sternberg Farms, an amalgamation of several holdings covering more than 3,000 acres, of which about 3,000 grow arable crops. The business is owned by the family of the late Lord Plurenden of High Halden, a German-born entrepreneur and refugee from the Nazis, who was a close friend of Sir Harold Wilson. He became a life peer in 1975 and served for a time as chairman of the British Agricultural Export Council.



Tom Forsyth with the Holstein Friesian herd: "We had got something that seemed to be out of control"

Earth moves to save rare orchid

By PAUL WILKINSON

DEVELOPERS who discovered a rare orchid on their construction site are to move the plant's entire surroundings in an effort to save it. Fifty tonnes of soil containing the nutrients and fungi on which the bee orchid thrives are being transported to a safe location.

A fleet of lorries is making the five-mile trip from the building site in Poppleton, near York, to a park close to the city centre where it is hoped the black and yellow *Ophrys apifera* will flourish.

The protected species was discovered when construction of a business park began.



The bee orchid: moved with 50 tonnes of soil

Bulldozers accidentally destroyed most of the colony while clearing the land. When environmentalists protested, White Rose Development offered to move the plant's surroundings.

Gordon Thomas, park ranger at the 24-acre St Nicholas Field, in York, will be responsible for care for the orchid in its new position. "We were too late to save the flower in its natural habitat so we are moving what's left to within the city," he said. "It is a very rare flower, particularly in the North of England. It is more commonly found in the warmer South and on the Continent."

"The soil needs to grow is being moved and over the course of the next few years we will hopefully see it blossom again. It's an innovative venture. It would have been very sad if it had been wiped out in this area."

"The flower needs the right conditions to flourish, including weather, which is one of the reasons it is rare in our part of the country. We are very pleased with the way White Rose has responded to our concerns and requests: this should be an example to other developers. The environment and development can live together if there is mutual respect."

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Sinn Fein man denies escaping from police

By NICHOLAS WATT

GERRY KELLY, the convicted IRA bomber and republican strategist, is to be questioned by the RUC this week after he allegedly escaped from police custody during a protest in Belfast on Friday night.

Mr Kelly, 43, was among 300 nationalists forcibly removed from the route of a loyalist Orange march before it was due to pass through a Roman Catholic area.

Superintendent Michael Brown said that Mr Kelly, who was handcuffed, escaped into the crowd after he was allowed out of the van to speak to officers. An RUC spokesman said yesterday: "Mr Kelly was arrested on suspicion of public order offences."

Mr Kelly said at the weekend that he had not escaped from custody because he had not been arrested. Brandishing his handcuffs outside Sinn Fein headquarters in West Belfast, he claimed he was dragged into the back of the Land Rover as he tried to mediate between the RUC and residents.

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The prize draw is open to all Times readers over 18. The winner will be chosen at random from all entries received before the closing date of Monday, July 8, 1996. The prize is not transferable. There is no cash alternative.



Housing market recovery conceals dips and booms

By RACHEL KELLY
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE recovery in the housing market has not reached all areas. Some towns are recording 10 per cent falls in prices while others report rises of almost a quarter.

Chester is leading the way with a 24 per cent rise in property prices in the first three months of this year, according to the Halifax building society. The biggest fall was recorded in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, where prices have dropped by 11.4 per cent.

Gary Marsh, of the Halifax, said the recovery had no simple geographical split. "The market is doing well in Reading, Berkshire, where prices for semi-detached houses are up by 10.8 per cent, but it is also rising in Bradford, West Yorkshire, where prices are up by 15 per cent. The market is highly localised, depending on economic factors."

Figures from Black Horse Agencies confirm the buoyancy of Reading's market. It now takes on average five weeks to sell a house there, the fastest-selling area in the country.

The Halifax figures confirm the impact of persistently high unemployment in older industrial areas. Scunthorpe, in Lincolnshire, Huddersfield, in West Yorkshire, and Barnsley have all seen falling house prices, reflecting the decline of the textile, steel and mining industries. Sheffield and Preston have seen prices fall by 3 and 4.3 per cent respectively, the Halifax says.

Malcolm Eyles, of Smith's estate agency in Barnsley, said: "We are still recovering from the closure of pits, and we have not yet attracted new industry sufficiently to make up for the lack of jobs. There is still a lot of uncertainty here about jobs."

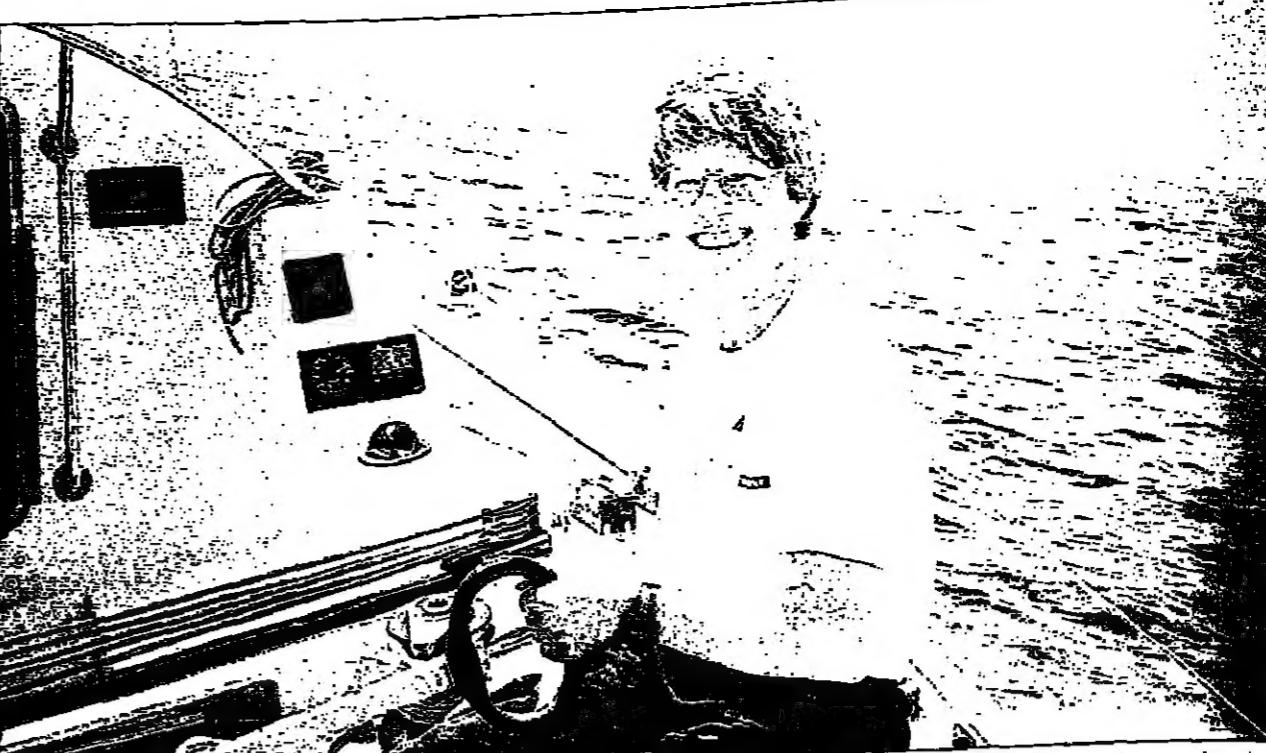
Chester's housing market is booming thanks to recent investment and a thriving tourist industry, local estate agents say. Companies at a new business park include the American bank MBNA and Marks & Spencer's financial division.

Cazumping is said to be returning in the area.

The Halifax survey found that London prices were down 2.9 per cent over the period, a figure which masks increases in some areas. Latest figures from Savills show that prime central London property values increased last year by 3.19 per cent, with rises of 4.6 per cent for houses and 2.46 per cent for flats.

The Halifax figures compare prices of a semi-detached house in the first three months of this year with the last three months of 1995, based on mortgage offers made by the Halifax. They only include towns where more than 30 mortgages were granted in the period, and do not cover many towns in the South West.

TOP TEN TOWNS						BOTTOM TEN TOWNS					
	Average price	Average price	4th Q '95	1st Q '96	% change		Average price	Average price	4th Q '95	1st Q '96	% change
Chester	56,827	70,447	24.0	59,000	-3.3	Sheffield	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	-0.1
Southport	47,278	59,106	22.9	59,106	+2.9	Preston	55,179	52,762	52,762	52,762	-5.1
Northampton	45,115	54,985	21.9	54,985	+1.7	Stockport	58,226	55,748	55,748	55,748	-4.4
Swansea	43,127	52,457	21.8	52,457	+1.6	Derby	45,657	43,525	43,525	43,525	-4.7
Bolton	24,103	25,922	19.1	25,922	+5.7	Middlesbrough	47,371	45,100	45,100	45,100	-4.6
Bath	52,292	55,271	15.2	55,271	+5.5	Wolverhampton	42,025	42,025	42,025	42,025	-0.5
Bradford	44,506	51,318	15.0	51,318	+14.8	Stockton-on-Tees	48,937	43,513	43,513	43,513	-11.4
Chesterfield	38,028	43,638	14.8	43,638	+14.8	Scunthorpe	39,986	36,404	36,404	36,404	-9.3
Cheltenham	60,912	69,615	14.3	69,615	+14.3	Barnsley	54,882	50,280	50,280	50,280	-8.4
Birmingham	52,015	57,937	11.4	57,937	+11.4		43,248	40,063	40,063	40,063	-7.9



Mary Falk, of the Queen's solicitors, on QII. A yachting colleague spoke of her "determination and ingenuity"

Solicitor courts Atlantic dangers

By EDWARD GORMAN
AND ALAN HAMILTON

THIS is not the week for the Queen to fall out with the Inland Revenue. The woman who might be called in to sort out her tax affairs is grappling single-handed with the Atlantic. Mary Falk, 48, a tax law expert and partner at Farter

and Co, the royal solicitors, is one of six women competing in the single-handed Transatlantic Yacht Race.

The 58 boats left Plymouth Sound eight days ago and the leaders are expected to cross the finishing line at Newport, Rhode Island, later this week. Unless fate takes an unexpected hand, Miss Falk will not be

leading the field. Although an experienced sailor who is on her third solo Atlantic crossing, her 35ft custom-built boat *QII* is thought unlikely to set the pace. But it will not be for any lack of skill or determination from its sole crew member.

Mike Urwin, technical manager of the Royal Ocean Racing Club, who helped Miss Falk to prepare for the race, said yesterday: "She is physically very small and not so strong, but she makes up for her lack of strength with determination, ingenuity and good preparation of the boat."

QII, designed by Michael Pocock specifically for short-handed racing, was launched

in 1990. Its water-ballasted monohull is said to be unsinkable. Miss Falk, who lives in Chelsea, took up serious racing in 1982 after years of experience in dinghies.

She notched up the Round Britain race in her first year, the Azores and back the following year, a two-hander across the Atlantic in 1986 and single-handers to America in 1988 and 1992.

At her last attempt she made the 3,000-mile crossing in 21 days, shaving two days off the previous women's record. She came within a hairbreadth of a collision with a large commercial ship outside Newport and was saved only by a last-minute puff of wind.

Campaign to oust Gardiner escalates on eve of local vote

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

SIR GEORGE GARDINER'S constituency is poised to oust him, destroying John Major's majority of one. Tory activists in Reigate, Surrey, will vote this week on whether to deselect the man who has been their MP since 1974.

An angry faction wants the 61-year-old Euro-sceptic to go despite his insistence that such a move would prompt an immediate by-election. The campaign has been stepped up at the weekend after 51 opponents circulated a letter attacking him. Last month, the association's executive council voted by 15 to 14 not to re-adopt him and the matter has gone to ordinary members.

The letter has been sent to most of the 1,100 people eligible to take part in the ballot at Reigate Grammar School on Friday evening. The signatories are angry that their MP backed John Redwood in last summer's leadership contest and failed to support the Government over the Maastricht treaty. They believe he is blackmailing them with his threat to resign.

Reigate has rarely heard the sound of dissent. But this thoroughly genteel community has been split by Sir George.

Both factions have been sending letters cajoling party activists to support them.

All agree that Sir George is a hard-working MP. But although Conservative Central Office have sent the party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, to arbitrate, they cannot agree on anything else.

The M25 which cuts through the constituency offers an approximate dividing line in the struggle. To the north are large houses, stables, paddocks, swimming pools and anti-Gardiners. They are the one-nation Tories who are angry that Sir George

ignored a local vote of 80 per cent backing Mr Major during the leadership campaign.

On the other side of town and in nearby Redhill are the professionals. They are pro-Sir George and right-wing. They are also desperate not to have a by-election that would almost certainly cause the town to go Labour for the first time. Sir George's majority in 1992 was 17,664.

Daniel Kee, an association vice-chairman and Gardiner supporter, said: "Some people just don't know the difference between loyalty and a difference of opinion ... Antipathy has grown up because people here are snobbish."

Angela Fraser, county councillor and Surrey's Deputy Lord-Lieutenant, said: "I firmly believe MPs should be loyal to their country and their party. Sir George is always grumbling about Major and openly rants about Europe, but we councillors and party workers are expected to soldier on loyally."

Sir George tries to be philosophical. "I am not threatening anything. The threat is on me. If they pull the rug from under me of course I will walk out," he said.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20



Gardiner: deselection would mean by-election

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Papandreu's death puts reform on party agenda

FROM JOHN CARR IN ATHENS

THE death of Andreas Papandreu, the Socialist firebrand of modern Greece, could remove an obstacle to changes in the ruling Socialist party he founded 22 years ago along social democratic lines.

As thousands of Greeks flocked to the capital's main orthodox cathedral to pay homage to Mr Papandreu, who died early yesterday of a heart attack, aged 77, officials said Pasok's executive bureau had decided during an urgent meeting that a four-day party congress starting on Thursday should go ahead as scheduled to elect his successor. Party officials said he died a few hours after putting together the first draft of an address to the 4,000 congress delegates.

Mr Papandreu had been an invalid since last November, when he was hospitalised after kidney failure. His worsening condition had forced him to give up the post of Prime Minister in January. He was reported to be in discomfort after a late Saturday night dinner at his home with political associates. He suffered heart failure about an hour after doctors were called.

A question mark hangs over Mr Papandreu's 41-year-old widow, Mimi, his third wife, who was among the first to arrive at the Athens cathedral as long lines of admirers waited their turn to pass the coffin. A year ago she had initiated an attempt to enter Greece's political arena to continue the Papandreu dynasty. A public uproar over

nude photographs which she had once posed for forced her to drop her plans.

The controversy is believed to have worsened her husband's health. He has been visibly frail since a triple bypass operation in 1988.

This year she devoted herself to religious exercises and caring for Mr Papandreu away from the public eye.

The coffin bearing his body, draped in a Greek flag, was driven to the cathedral yesterday morning, where it will lie in state for three days. Thousands of followers, some sobbing, braved a heatwave to pay their last respects to the leader who built his career on political salesmanship of the highest order. He maintained an almost mystic hold on Greece's working classes, which is his chief legacy.

Costas Simitis, the Prime Minister who replaced Mr Papandreu last January, flew to Athens from the European Union summit in Florence to attend an emergency Cabinet meeting. He called Mr Papandreu's death "a national loss".

The careful wording of his statement was intentional. For the past two years Mr Simitis has been distancing himself from the old populist firebrand, promoting a cooler, more social democratic image for the Socialist party, Pasok, along Western European lines. In a key party convention scheduled for later this week, Mr Simitis hoped to be elected acting party chairman

to enable him to underpin his prime ministerial job and sweep away the Papandreu influence.

However, he faces a strong challenge from the populist old guard headed by Akis Tsochatzopoulos, the Interior Minister, one of Mr Papandreu's most trusted lieutenants. This week Mr Tsochatzopoulos is expected to exploit the emotional aftermath of the founder's death to seize the party chairmanship.

The struggle of the heirs is the inevitable result of the late leader's style, in which his considerable political talents were channelled solely into a typically Greek pursuit and maintenance of personal political power.

Even as an invalid, dependent on life support systems, Mr Papandreu's ego was undimmed. Two weeks ago he was trying to convince even his personal physician that he



Mrs Papandreu at the cathedral in Athens

was still, in the doctor's words, "an active political force". He had even expressed a wish to be carried into the party convention to rally what he saw to be a faltering party.

There were claims last night that stress over the forthcoming convention could have brought on the fatal heart attack. "The party and its problems killed him," shouted his half-brother, George Papandreu.

European leaders attending the European summit in Florence praised Mr Papandreu's leadership. John Major said: "Mr Papandreu was a charismatic leader who contributed much to the development of modern Greece. He led the country through a decade of great change in the 1980s."

Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, said Mr Papandreu "profoundly influenced Greek political life over the past 35 years. His fight for democracy during the dictatorship [1967-74] in Greece is known to everyone."

Mesut Yilmaz, the Turkish caretaker Prime Minister, who attended the EU summit as an observer, described Mr Papandreu's death as "a great loss for the Greek people. I express my deepest sympathies. I believe that Mr Papandreu wanted from the bottom of his heart peace between our two countries, despite the rhetoric."

Obituary, page 23



Archbishop Desmond Tutu with his wife Leah at a Cape Town service yesterday marking both his retirement at the end of the month after ten years as the city's Anglican Archbishop and his role in the struggle against apartheid

Nigeria to meet sanctions task force

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

TOM IKIMI, the Nigerian Foreign Minister, today holds a long-delayed meeting in London with a Commonwealth task force urging Nigeria to speed up its promised transition to democracy.

Chief Ikimi, who will head a 17-man delegation, has agreed to the meeting to avert a threatened tightening of Commonwealth sanctions, imposed on Nigeria at last autumn's Commonwealth summit.

The task force, headed by Stan Mudenge, the Foreign Minister of Zimbabwe, had originally insisted on seeing General Sani Abacha, head of Nigeria's military government, but all attempts to

set a meeting have been rebuffed. The Commonwealth action group is likely to express concern at the lack of human rights in Nigeria, especially the continued detention of political activists, including Chief Moshood Abiola, the presumed winner of the aborted 1993 election.

Opposition groups have accused government thugs of being responsible for the murder of Chief Abiola's wife Kudirat, who was shot at close range in her car last month. The Nigerian Government disclaimed any connection, expressed condolences and has detained several of the chief's family members in connection with the shooting.

The Commonwealth group is unlikely to recommend tightening sanctions. Britain and European Union members impose visa restrictions on Nigerians, but Britain has opposed any ban on oil sales on the grounds that this would be ineffective if it was not also observed by America, which buys the bulk of Nigeria's oil.

Labour called last week on Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, for a tougher British stance, saying Britain's reluctance to jeopardise its relations with the Nigerian Government had allowed the Abacha regime to continue along its brutal path.

Western diplomats in Nigeria said the military government may release some detainees to coincide with Mr Ikimi's talks in London.

Tensions rise as Israelis reject Arab land demands

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM AND MARK HUBAND IN CAIRO

ARAB-ISRAELI tensions prompted by the election of the right-wing Government in Israel increased last night as Israel swiftly rejected the demands of the emergency Arab summit in Cairo that it should continue withdrawing from occupied territory or endanger the peace process.

In a written statement, Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, dismissed out of hand the final communiqué issued by the 21 Arab leaders.

In their hard-hitting final declaration, the Arab leaders put aside their own disputes, which had threatened to disrupt the talks, and demanded that Israel should respect Palestinian self-determination, withdraw from southern Lebanon and the Golan Heights and negotiate Palestinian claims to a state with its capital in east Jerusalem.

Going further than expected on the issue of the normalisation of Arab relations with Israel, states that have opened diplomatic links have now said they will review their decisions and decide only when Israel moves forward on the agreement signed at the 1991 Madrid conference. That established the principle of Israel handing over occupied land in return for peace with its Arab neighbours.

The communiqué, and the apparently successful efforts of President Mubarak of

Egypt to prevent a worsening feud between Syria and Jordan spilling over into the conference, is the strongest show of Arab unity since the division wrought by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

President Ben Ali of Tunisia, defending his policy which is now expected to slow down, said after the conference: "Even if the assessment of different states varies, the steps we have taken to normalise our relations with Israel have been intended to push the peace process forward."

A senior Syrian official said: "The idea is that those states that have begun the normalisation process should review their decisions and see whether they are appropriate."

The Cairo communiqué was welcomed warmly in Damascus by the ad hoc organisation

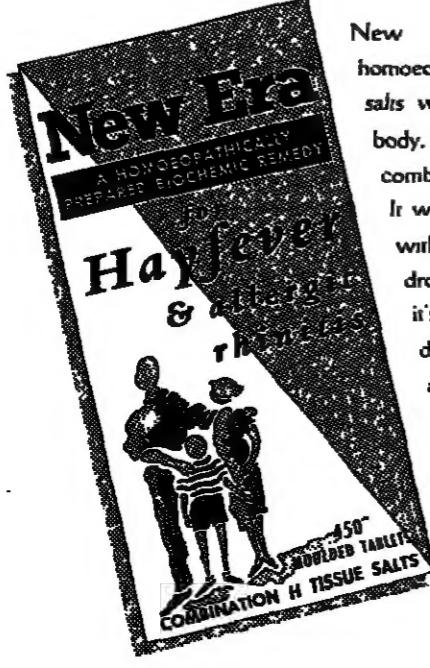
of ten radical Palestinian groups based there which oppose the 1993 peace deal between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

"One-sided demands which harm security do not go together with talks for peace," Mr Netanyahu said after studying the text of the Cairo document. "For the process to continue successfully and fruitfully, such statements must be stopped. That is the most basic demand for talks on coexistence and peace."

The Prime Minister, a former Israeli commando and counter-terrorism expert, added: "Peace is a strategic aim of both Israel and the Arab states. The peace process must be conducted without preconditions. Peace negotiations must be conditioned on security for all peoples of the region."

The new strains imposed on Arab-Israeli relations by the two-day summit and the dismissive Israeli response to it have underlined the urgency of the first trip to the region since the Israeli election by Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, who is due for talks in Jerusalem tomorrow. He has been making determined efforts to try to tone down the hostile response of the Arabs to Mr Netanyahu's policy guidelines, now known to Arabs as "the three 'Nos'".

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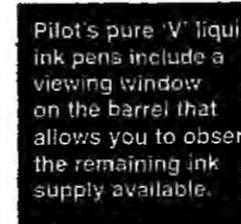
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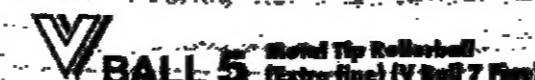
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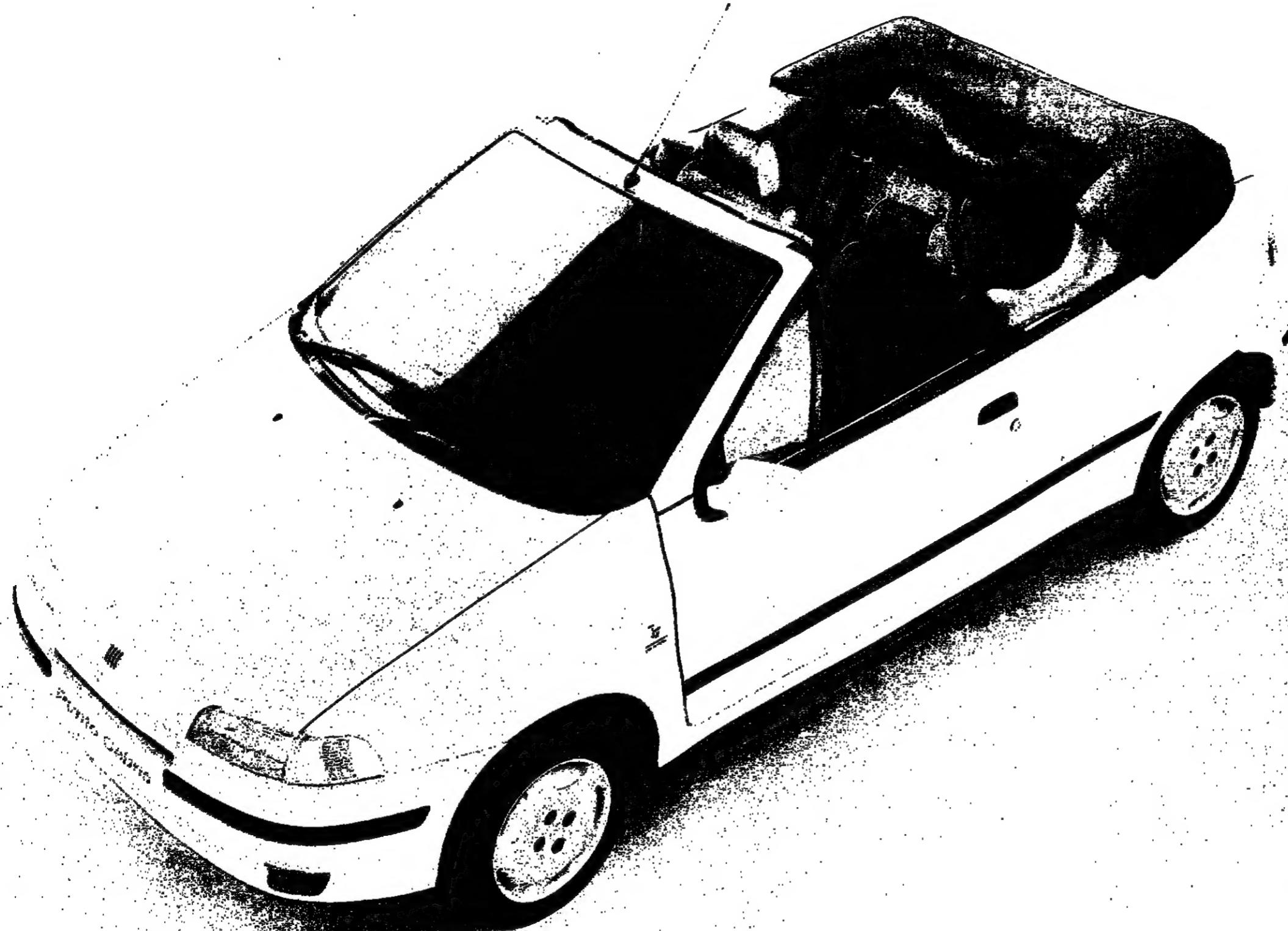
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submarining seats, so you won't slip under your seat belt when you need it most. Whilst the strengthened windscreen frame has made the Cabrio the first convertible in its class

to pass the stringent American roll-over test* (when you get rolled over in America, you've got to be tough to come through). Despite all the Cabrio's appeal a certain group of people will find it no fun at all. The engine is fitted with an immobiliser. But this is no time to talk about remaining stubbornly immobile. Think

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Ceasefire in beef war leaves EU's battle lines unchanged

AS THE smoke drifted from the last battlefield of the brief beef war, I remembered Winston Churchill's description of 'watching Ireland's endless conflict emerge from the cataclysm of a world war which had destroyed the rest' of the Continent's way of life.

"The dreary steeples of Fermanagh and Tyrone" appeared again, Churchill said, and the integrity of their quarrel was quite unaltered. And so with the nations of the European Union, the integrity of their struggle about the distribution of power between the states and Brussels is unscathed. John Major



IN EUROPE

may not have won much; but in the rest of Europe he has not lost all that much either. The battle lines over "Maastricht II" and the single currency are drawn just

where they were. No continental politician could credibly claim that the British work-to-rule in Brussels revealed to them for the first time that Mr Major can be difficult. Ah, say the savants, but there has been a "hardening" of the mood against Britain. In my experience of a dozen EU summits, no journalist ever had difficulty finding an under-employed prime minister to claim that Britain is going to pay a terrible price down the road for its outrageous obduracy. "Things like this will be remembered," hissed Goran Persson, the Swedish Prime

Minister. Don't forget that since the Swedes are suspected of being infected by British doubts, Mr Persson has to work extra hard to disown Mr Major. We need to find a way of decommissioning the odious national veto, said Jean-Luc Dehaene of Belgium. Mr Dehaene, let us not for a moment be the losers two years ago when Mr Major blocked his nomination to succeed Jacques Delors at the head of the European Commission. Dehaene uttered the same vague "never again" threats then.

There is no doubt that both Mr Major and Britain have

lost sympathy — and thus the benefit of the doubt in a tight corner — over the past six years. But that is the result of three underlying causes. Mr Major's party is split on the single currency, his ministers have no practical solution. If majority voting is extended to new fields next year, it is clear that most existing national vetoes will stay.

Even the EU, which has staged a fair number of ludicrous pantomimes in its time, would blench at the idea of turning some future summit into a kangaroo court to put a national government on trial for deviant behaviour.

Attempts to audit the profit

and loss to British interests and influence in the beef war quickly vanish into arcane speculations. Wandering into the Piazza della Signoria in Florence at the weekend, I came upon a sight which you do not see in Britain: a procession in favour of a federal Europe.

Policemen from Palermo and postmen from Pistoia marched to the amplified sound of Beethoven. One sign-writer had made a brave attempt to link federalism and everyday worries: "Division-unemployment" said his placard.

Only a few hours before

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, had been saying the opposite. Herr Kohl had been slapping down ideas that governments should dip into their pockets for European Commission job creation schemes and insisting that public spending was the business of national governments.

"Serial vetoes" are less of a problem than the embarrassingly evident fact that the EU keeps holding serial summits which promise to do something about unemployment but fail to deliver any jobs.

GEORGE BROCK

Britain heading for fresh dispute over shorter work hours

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN FLORENCE

JOHN MAJOR may have sheathed his sword after the beef war, but the European Union summit in Florence has offered more of a truce than peace in Britain's troubled relations with the Continent and the next battlefield are already on the horizon.

As Ireland takes over the EU presidency, Britain's partners are preparing for fresh collisions over beef, and a whole cauldron of contention over the future of the European Union, including working hours and foreign and justice policies.

The weekend gathering, which ended in an inconclusive anti-climax after Friday's great beef ceasefire, has ordered a special summit in October to advance lagging EU business and instructed Ireland to produce a draft of a new version of the Maastricht treaty at the EU summit in Dublin next December.

This will be the venue for a certain British stand as John Major digs in against all others with his refusal to contemplate any dilution of the national veto in EU affairs.

All the others favour some extension of decision-making by majority and the beef crisis has sparked new eagerness for a "flexible" Europe, allowing a vanguard of core states to move faster to deeper union.



Kohl: eager to press on with deeper union

bruised in Europe from the beef war, seemed on Saturday to be spoiling for a fight over the inter-governmental conference (IGC), as the treaty negotiations are called.

Britain's counter-offensive on the IGC may start within a month if, as expected, the Luxembourg court rejects Britain's appeal against a Brussels directive imposing a maximum 48-hour working week. British officials have hinted that London may defy the directive anyway, on the grounds that it imposes a social measure and Britain has opted out of European social legislation.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, welcomed what he called the decision to make the IGC "go at full blast" after three months of stagnation. The Germans are eager to forge deeper union through robust common policies in justice, immigration and foreign affairs.

Meanwhile, beef is likely to return as a source of tension soon if the Government keeps Mr Major's promise to apply to the EU Commission for the first stage of easing the ban in September. The vague Florence deal is unlikely to prevent decisions on the ban again being obstructed in the Brussels committees that sparked Britain's blocking campaign.

Paris lover ended double life of murder charge 'doctor'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A MODERN "Dr Jekyll" who maintained a bogus identity as a medical expert for 20 years will appear in court in eastern France today charged with murdering his wife, children and parents because he was about to be unmasked.

The friends and family of Jean-Claude Romand, 42, believed him to be a brilliant doctor specialising in cardiovascular diseases. "Doctor" Romand had all the trappings of success: a beautiful wife, two children and an elegant home in the town of Preveins-Moëns near the Swiss border and a wealthy

mistress in Paris. In fact, investigators say, M Romand had no real job and turned to murder rather than face exposure. Records show he went no further than the first year of medical school in Lyons, but, rather than admit that to his doting parents and his future wife, a pharmacist, the police say he invented his credentials and the life to go with them. He maintained his lifestyle by borrowing money — his mistress alone is said to have lent him almost a million francs (about £130,000). But his counterfeit existence began to unravel in 1992 when

his mistress demanded her money back. On January 10, 1993, the Romand family home burst into flames. Inside, firemen found the partly burnt bodies of Florence, his wife, who had been killed by a blow to the head while sedated, and their two children, aged five and seven, who had both been shot. M Romand lay near by, after trying to kill himself with a combination of sleeping pills and petrol. The bodies of M Romand's elderly parents were discovered soon afterwards, shot dead in their home in the Jura.

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Tony Blair will not suffer from the same defects. Moans about unilateral British obstruction over beef will fade because the moaners have no practical solution. If majority voting is extended to new fields next year, it is clear that most existing national vetoes will stay.

Even the EU, which has staged a fair number of ludicrous pantomimes in its time, would blench at the idea of turning some future summit into a kangaroo court to put a national government on trial for deviant behaviour.

Attempts to audit the profit

Pope says too few resisted

FROM REUTER IN BERLIN

TOO few Roman Catholics stood up against Hitler, the Pope told Germany's Jewish leaders yesterday amid renewed controversy about the Church's role during the Third Reich.

On the last day of his first trip to reunited Germany, the Pope beatified two German priests who died opposing the Nazis, but he dropped segments of a prepared speech on how the Church as a whole had responded. Meeting leaders of Germany's Jewish community, however, he said that not enough of the faithful followed the example of the courageous ones who had dared to defy Hitler.

"Although many priests and lay people opposed this regime of terror, as historians have now shown, and many forms of resistance arose in people's daily lives, they were still too few," he said, according to an official text of his remarks.

Photograph, page 24



A farmer protesting at Bordeaux's town hall against the effects of "mad cow" disease on the French beef trade protects his animal from the sun. The 500 protesters wanted to see Alain Juppé, Mayor of Bordeaux and Prime Minister

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Japanese sex slave apology

Tokyo: Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japan's Prime Minister, apologised for the Korean "comfort women" who were forced to have sex with Japanese troops in the Second World War. "From the bottom of my heart I would like to apologise and express regret," he said.

He was speaking after talks with South Korea's President Kim Young-Sam on the island of Cheju. The talks focused on how co-hosting the 2002 World Cup could foster harmony between the bickering neighbours.

Panama cash investigation

Miami: After revelations in Panama that the ruling party's 1994 election was tainted by drug money, President Balladore promised fully to investigate how two cheques for a total of \$51,000 (£33,000) from an accused drug trafficker found their way into his campaign fund (David Adams writes).

Dhaka leader

Dhaka: Sheikh Hasina Wajed, head of the Awami League and daughter of Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh's murdered leader, has been sworn in as Prime Minister. (Reuters)

Poverty line

Deli: More than 1.3 billion people, one-fifth of the world's population, now live on less than \$1 a day, according to new figures in a World Bank report on poverty. (Reuters)

Kinkel visit off

Peking: China cancelled next month's visit by German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel over a parliamentary motion accusing China of human rights abuses in Tibet. (Reuters)

Sailors rescued

Olbia, Sardinia: Helicopter rescue teams plucked 19 Americans from the deck of a 17m luxury yacht just before it went down in high waves off Sardinia. Nobody was hurt. (AP)

March of time

Tehran: An Iranian farmer said to have fought voluntarily in the 1980-1988 war against Iraq has died aged 130. Iran's official news agency reported. His widow is 95. (AFP)

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Psychic 'is helping Hillary Clinton speak to the dead'

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE White House struggled to play down the latest revelation about Hillary Clinton yesterday — her use of a spiritual guru who guides the First Lady through long conversations with the long-dead Eleanor Roosevelt.

White House aides, fearing damaging comparisons with Nancy Reagan's use of an astrologer, insisted Mrs Clinton's relationship with Dr Jean Houston was not close. They accused Dr Houston of "magnifying her own importance in Hillary's life".

Dr Houston, 55, head of the so-called Foundation for Mind Research, believes in spirits and psychic experiences and conducted experiments with LSD in the 1960s. She also believes that her "personal archetypal predecessor" is Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom, with whom she conducts long computer dialogues that she calls "docking with one's angel".

Mrs Clinton turned to Dr Houston in the dark days after the Democrats' devastating defeat of Congress in 1994, according to a new book called *The Choice* by Bob Woodward, the celebrated Watergate journalist. Dr Houston was one of five motivational experts summoned to Camp David two months after that defeat, which many Democrats blamed on Mrs Clinton's di-

sastrous healthcare reform efforts. The Clintons were in "deep torment", Mr Woodward writes. Dr Houston encouraged Mrs Clinton to close her eyes and describe bumping into Mrs Roosevelt, her equally controversial predecessor, in a hall. Mrs Clinton vividly described Mrs Roosevelt's manner and appearance. She talked to her about "her fierceness and determination, her advocacy on behalf of people in need, the obstacles the criticism, the loneliness the former First Lady felt". Dr Houston then had Mrs Clinton respond as Mrs Roosevelt. "I was misunderstood, Hillary replied, her eyes still shut, speaking as Mrs Roosevelt. You have to do what you think is right. It was crucial to set a course and hold to it."

The book also contains revelations about Bob Dole, the Republican presidential nominee. His advisers have given him a list of 15 possible running mates led by Colin Powell but also including James Baker and Richard Cheney, President Bush's Secretaries of State and Defence. It also says that in April, Mr Dole sent a private note of apology to Mr Clinton after learning of the President's fury that he had called for the appointment of a Whitewater special prosecutor the day Mr Clinton's mother died.



Eleanor Roosevelt: "In touch with First Lady"



A woman tries to stop anti-Klux Klan protesters, armed with sticks, from beating up a KKK supporter after a rally of the extremist group in Ann Arbor, Michigan, at the weekend. Police used teargas to break up the clash.

Yeltsin secures support of rivals

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL
IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN received a boost yesterday ahead of his second run-off in the presidential elections, with the endorsement of all the main also-rans from the first round.

In a blow for Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader who is facing Mr Yeltsin on July 3, even the eccentric ultra-nationalist, Vladimir Zhirinovsky, told the radio station Echo Moskva that he was backing Mr Yeltsin. Asked if he was ready to support Mr Yeltsin, Mr Zhirinovsky said: "Yes, I'm ready." In return he said he wanted to see Mr Yeltsin adopt a more aggressive foreign policy and not "creep along in the wake of the US and Nato".

Mr Zhirinovsky, who came fifth last Sunday and won 4.3 million votes, has a habit of stridently opposing the Government and the Kremlin administration, only to support them at the last moment. Many of his working-class voters will probably decide to vote for Mr Zyuganov, but Mr Zhirinovsky carries a lot of clout with his supporters.

Mr Yeltsin already has the endorsement of the man who came third on June 16, Aleksandr Lebed, who received 11 million votes. Grigori Yavlinsky, who collected five million votes, rejected any support for Mr Zyuganov yesterday but laid down his conditions for supporting him.



Japanese Airport, Italia

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By Roger
THURGOOD

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TODAY JUNE 24 1996

Yeltsin
secures
support
of rivals



TIMES SPORT

MONDAY JUNE 24 1996

GERMANY AWAITS ENGLAND IN EURO 96 SEMI-FINAL AT WEMBLEY



Pearce, having smashed England's third penalty past the Spain goalkeeper, Zubizarreta, turns away from the goal to receive the acclaim of the Wembley crowd. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Pearce faces up to his old demons

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL
CORRESPONDENT

HOW much more can the nation and the nerves take? Such is the changing face, the wild fluctuations in emotions of England's tournament in Euro 96, that very soon we will need psychiatric counselling to soothe the players if not the millions who allow themselves to be hauled through the whole gamut of feelings. The changing face of the event has ranged from Gascoigne's joyful goal a week ago, to the unbridled power of four goals from Shearer and Sheringham against Holland, and on Saturday to the personal drama of Stuart Pearce scoring in the penalty shoot-out against Spain.

On Wednesday, he and England will have to psych themselves up to go one stage further towards the ultimate prize. Germany stand before them again, having beaten Croatia 2-1 at Old Trafford yesterday. The bad news for the Germans and the good news for England is that the cost of victory in a vicious quarter-final seems to have been the loss of Jürgen Klinsmann, with a torn calf, and Fredi Bobic, with a dislocated



After a moment of stunned repose, Pearce advances towards the jubilant supporters, his face a changing mask of emotions as he exhorts them to roar his team home

shoulder. Neither is expected to be fit by Wednesday. Ladbrokes have made England and Germany 15-8 joint favourites to win the tournament.

The odds are longer on Pearce having to exorcise completely the demons of 1990 when he took the fourth penalty in the World Cup semi-final shoot-out. It was saved. England lost, and Pearce has had to live six years under the cloud of Turin.

He insisted on taking penalty No 3 at Wembley on Saturday; his coach, Venables, questioned it for an instant, but Pearce is a mighty intimidating fellow and before 75,000 people in the stadium, 20 million British viewers and a figure approaching one billion around the world, he stepped up for that kick.

And then, his face pinched and almost white with tension, he proved his courage. All right, it was a man, a ball, a

net and a goalkeeper, a moment of sport and not of a soldier's nerve being tested under fire. But the way that the whole tournament is shaping, the manner in which what used to be sport is becoming a whole examination of a nation's pride and well-being, the jingoism that is irrationally attached to this act, Pearce was indeed more than an athlete, he was a man firing for his country.

And when it was over, when

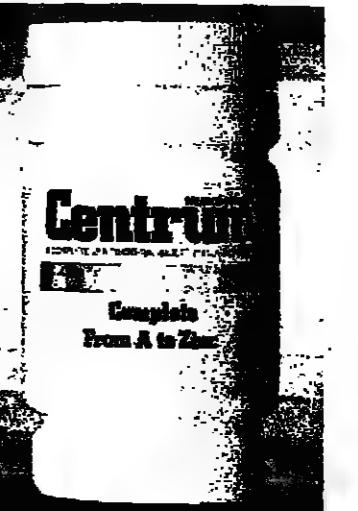
with unwavering eye and unrelenting force, he had thrashed the ball past Andoni Zubizarreta, the Spain goalkeeper, there was an instant when nothing at all registered on Pearce's face.

But the crowd exploded and then relief poured out of him. The veins stood out on his neck, he shouted "come on" repeatedly to the crowd ... and though at 34 he is too old to revoke his nickname, Psycho, look at him in the

pictures: the oldest psycho in town.

Because calmness then prevailed, because David Seaman yet again proved a goalkeeper who could save at least one of four penalties, England defeated Spain. But it was what the American tennis player, Brad Gilbert, once described as "winning ugly". The ugliness was not of Pearce's personal date with destiny, nor of Seaman's acrobatic anticipation, but of the dreadful lottery that reduces two hours of football to the Russian roulette of penalty kicks. This time the gun was loaded as unfairly as can be: all but the smallest minority in the ground cheering the home team, hissing the opponents, trying as England in former sporting times would never have done to win by any means fair or foul. England won, Pearce atoned, but the Germans may not allow Wednesday to go so far.

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WHITEHORN

Coming home with a supporter's flair for invective

The right to abuse your own football players is earned quite quickly in a supporter's career, I find. "Are we keeping you up?" I yelled at Gascoigne on Saturday, as for the umpteenth time a free kick turned into a feeble offhand tap.

"What did he do that for?" I asked, time and again.

"What did he do that for?" Why is Gascoigne walking? Sheringham was playing like somebody's granny; it was awful. The ball would fly over his head, and just as it bounded behind him, he'd leap up to head it. Meanwhile McManaman, thanklessly, would run like stink the length of the field (cheers, cheers), turn around, and

find nobody there. Others passed wildly, as if able to see six rabbits in football shirts invisible to the rest of us. "What did he do that for?" I asked. "What did he do that for?" And the question was never purely rhetorical. I really wanted to know.

In all too short a time, I have learned the hurt, bewildered running mutter of complaint, the football supporter's whine of betrayal. The honeymoon did not last long. "Passing to Gascoigne? You might as well dig your own grave and jump in it, son. You might as well pass it to the cat. What did he do that for?" And so it continued on Saturday until the penalty win surprisingly put us out of our misery; at which point we stood on the seats, whooped for joy and relief, and were incredibly glad it was over.

Funnily enough, the BBC analysis in the evening made the English match-play look better than it was. The highlights were rightly brief, yet they included more English shots at goal than I had remembered. Gascoigne looked quite handy in these snippets, whereas at the time he resembled a victim of amnesia

LYNNE TRUSS



KICKING & SCREAMING

who had wandered on to the pitch in an unfamiliar shirt marked S. But one's opinions are coloured by emotion and prejudice, of course. A bloke nearby disliked Platt so

much (why? why?) that he virtually spat on the ground whenever Platt got possession. Whereas it seemed to me that Platt was a rock. "Good, here comes Platt." I would say. And when he got possession, "Just like Platt, Good man."

The Euro '96 paper was as invaluable as ever, but it also caused a crisis of conscience. At 15.36 it told me the second Spanish off-side goal was in fact perfectly all right. The weight of this secret knowledge was awful; the only time I felt anything like it was knowing the result of the Booker Prize before sitting down to eat dinner with a nervous shortlisted author (who hadn't won).

How terrible that Spain had been ripped off; that the goalless scoreline was wrong throughout. In the eyes of God, Spain had already won the match. Should I tell anybody? I swivelled my eyes while I made my mind up. Well, perhaps best not to mention it to

anyone banging a drum and shouting "Es-pa-ña" with a lisp.

I'm not sure I would like to meet the person who writes the paper messages. When England finally won the penalty shoot-out, he reported the win with a total of 22 exclamation marks, which shows how much he cares

but also which side he's on. You may remember he said "It makes you proud to be British on the night Scotland was knocked out, too — which was pretty

tasteless in retrospect. Personally, I never expected to find such naked chauvinism in my own soul ("Eng-land!"), and am still appalled by the unfair hissing and boozing of Spaniards attempting a penalty shot. When Spanish substitutes sprinted past our seats on Saturday, innocently warming their hamstrings, they were greeted

with hostile heckles and plonker-gestures (you know the one I mean).

Yet I still want England to do well. I want them to remember they are a team, and that moreover we don't sing all this extorting stuff exclusively for our own benefit. A kindly reader has written to warn me that all international football tournaments fall into two halves — the half with England in it, and the half when

you have to find excitement somewhere else. Thank you for that. I knew it in my heart. But now that I have sung "You'll Never Walk Alone" and "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life" in a forest of plastic Snickers hats (free England hats with "Snickers" on), how can I stop yelling at Gascoigne — to wake up, wake up, for heaven's sake?

FOOTBALL: INSPIRATIONAL GERMANY CAPTAIN LIMPS OUT OF BATTLE IN TEARS WHILE CROATIA BOW OUT OF CHAMPIONSHIP IN DISGRACE

Klinsmann may miss Wembley showdown

Germany 2
Croatia 1

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

SO. AS almost everyone expected, England's semi-final opponents at Wembley on Wednesday are the mighty Germany. Except that, on the performance in their quarter-final against Croatia and their previous game when they were dominated by Italy, these are no mighty Germans. Indeed, there is a struggle through frailty of both mind and body that makes them look an opposition England can cope with.

That said, never rule out a German. The portents for Wednesday did look bright in

derfully gifted, were unfulfilled. In the first six minutes Sammer and Klinsmann, the two German players of true quality, had been booked for fouls, but that was a prelude to some atrocious indiscretions from Croatia. They, above all nations, would scorn the crass suggestion that sport could ever be a substitute for war.

Yet they played it, or rather they fought it, yesterday with such disdain for the rule book, such violence, unbecoming, that only the most appalling ineptitude and complaisance by Leif Sundell, the Swedish referee, could have allowed them to finish the 90 minutes with only Igor Stimac, the Derby County defender, sent off for two blatant and foolish fouls.

What got into the Croats?

They can play, they have technical ability at second to none in this European championship. And yet, perhaps because they played in fear, they were wretchedly intemperate. Croatia had played Germany three times during the last war and they had been taken to pieces 5-1, 2-0 and 5-1 again. Miroslav Blazevic, the Croatian coach who will have remembered those games, said all along that he relished playing Germany.

He will not have relished the first sign of madness from his players. Nikola Jerkanc, the sweeper, was running wide of the goal with his opposite number, Sammer when, for no rational reason, Jerkanc handled the ball. From the penalty spot, Klinsmann struck the ball low, hard and right, well out of reach of Ladic, the goalkeeper.

Germany, too, were uncertain in defence. Helmer and Reuter were both trying to mask injuries, both having to play because Strunz was ineligible after being sent off against Italy, and Kohler was one of two Germans who had to fly home for operations. As Croatia counter-attacked, sometimes swift and sure, sometimes with mind detached from body, the German organisation seemed a travesty of what we expect from that country.

It was a surprise that it took the 50th minute for Croatia to equalise. Davor Suker, who was later to miss two chances to head goals, directing them both at Klinsmann, had already scored a penalty, had already received a yellow card for a pernicious kick at Vlaovic, and left the field with tears cascading down his face; tears, he said later, of despair rather than pain.

He wants so badly to play at Wembley. It was Tottenham Hotspur's failure to reach the FA Cup final that triggered his departure, and if the doctor's diagnosis that the muscle is torn is correct, then England will not have to face him. "It's the first time in my career I have torn a muscle," the Germany captain said. "The doctors say it will require seven days at least. I hope they are wrong."

Hopes of a fine football match between Germany, the most experienced tournament side in the world, and Croatia, the least experienced but won-



Klinsmann's hopes of facing England at Wembley suffer a severe blow as he leaves the field injured yesterday

nevertheless capitalised on an amateur error from Freund. Worse, when Ziegler and Bobic had collided going for the same ball and lay on the ground, Slaven Bilic, the West Ham United defender, first prodded Ziegler on the ground, then kicked him forcefully as he lay. The referee was a foot away, indeed he was pushing Bilic in the chest, yet he dared take no action. Similarly this apology for an arbiter ignored a kick at Ziegler much later in the action by Sturm.

Croatia destroyed before our eyes the romantic image some had built of them. They were players who had been excused national duty at a time of war because of their importance as ambassadors to their country, players who

shield from any schoolchild. Worse, when Ziegler and Bobic had collided going for the same ball and lay on the ground, Slaven Bilic, the West Ham United defender, first prodded Ziegler on the ground, then kicked him forcefully as he lay. The referee was a foot away, indeed he was pushing Bilic in the chest, yet he dared take no action. Similarly this apology for an arbiter ignored a kick at Ziegler much later in the action by Sturm.

Croatia destroyed before our eyes the romantic image some had built of them. They were players who had been excused national duty at a time of war because of their importance as ambassadors to their country, players who

have been full-time professionals in Europe's wealthiest clubs for far too long to even try to excuse their behaviour as being emotionally out of their depth.

Thank heavens Germany

punished them. In the 58th minute, just after Sturm had been sent off, Matthias Sammer, unquestionably the finest player on the field, effectively finished the match. Bobic had roared out of the defence on the right wing and crossed towards the near post. Sammer glided forward, one step ahead of Jerkanc, took the pace off the ball with his forehead, and with his right foot executed a goal of almost gentle freedom.

He brings to the word *libero*

the fullest sense of expression; he was head and shoulders above the fitful nonsense that was going on all around, and this recruit from the former East Germany remains the finest footballer in the team that is coming to Wembley.

GERMANY (4-5-2): A Kapte (Bremen); M Sommer (Borussia Mönchengladbach); T Helmer (Bayern Munich); A Freund (Borussia Dortmund); A Möller (Borussia Mönchengladbach); M Scholl (Bayern Munich); T Hässler, Katerinus, Sigmund, D Eitschberger, J Klinsmann (Bayern Munich); S Bobic (Bayer Leverkusen); F Bobic (VfB Stuttgart); sub S Kurz (Borussia Mönchengladbach); C Römer (1860 Munich); D Stach (Dortmund); D Zöger (St. Pauli); M Stach (Brugge); N Juricic (Freiburg); sub M Müller (Bayer Leverkusen); M Hajek (Sparta Prague); I Stimac (Derby); R Jarni (Real Betis); D Šuker (Slovénie); G Vrsaljko (Radnik); Referee: L Sundell (Sweden)

We see an element of coldness, a lack of passion, an overemphasis on organisation. But really, most German teams are like our own — but grown up. The players are more responsible, more secure in themselves — less caught up, it would seem, with their own myths.

This was spoilt out for us

English with wondrous clarity with the splendid Klinsmann's year at Tottenham. Coming to England with a reputation as football's second greatest cheat, he soon established himself as a nation-wide love object by virtue of his unassuming excellence, his sense of personal style and his — really rather novel — quality of grownups.

True, Šuker's game for Croatia against Denmark still

remains the best individual performance of the tourna-

T his weekend a blonde and charming but somewhat humourless German lady, already confirming my views on national stereotypes, asked me to fill in a questionnaire. It was very long and very complex, filled with unanswerable questions about the roles of sport and the sportswriter in the modern world.

It was amusing, and had a strong element of self-parody, but it never quite became quotably hilarious. This was, in the end, something of a disappointment.

In the same way, German football teams never quite slide into self-parody. Certainly it would be amusing to see them as a series of blond machines, mindlessly fulfilling their coaches' aspirations, men without flair or thought or creativity.

It is still true, and surely it always must be true, that a German team inspires in outsiders respect rather than affection, admiration rather than awe. No Englishman feels about the Germans as he does about the Brazilians; and many times an Italian team beats an English club side, and we walk away filled with delight at the style, the beauty, of the class.

This is not the case with any German team, and certainly not the side we saw beat Croatia 2-1 at Old Trafford yesterday. The thing is that Germans play their football too much like us — like us, it must be said, only, in the main, and barring the odd miracle, better.

We see an element of coldness, a lack of passion, an overemphasis on organisation. But really, most German teams are like our own — but grown up. The players are more responsible, more secure in themselves — less caught up, it would seem, with their own myths.

This said, this is not the most awe-inspiring German side we have ever seen. It lacks that implacable look that has always characterised the best of them. It has, instead, a very great deal of resilience. They might need it all against England on Wednesday; and it might indeed be enough.

I suppose we must now prepare ourselves for a national orgy of anti-German jokes, hijacked sunbeds, little moustaches and don't mention the War.

Still, it is worth noting that it was not the German fans who gave fascist salutes during their national anthem. That was a few Croatians — and at Wembley, a few English, of course. Let us make our jokes with due care and attention.

way." Zvonimir Boban said sourly. "We left we were the better team all the way until the sending off of Šuker."

Bilic, who kicked Ziegler when the German was on the ground after the mid-air collision which ended Bobic's involvement, said: "It was the heat of the moment thing and I apologised straight away." But the referee's failure to deal with that incident was only one instance of a performance which had both sides complaining about the refereeing.

Sympathy for Croatia was limited, however, for as Vogts complained: "They have a way of playing very provocatively".

Nevertheless, the Germans prevailed and now move forward to face England. "The England team has gone from strength to strength through the tournament and they have to be admired for that," Vogts said.

Injuries to strikers cast shadow over victory

Peter Ball hears Germany's coach bemoan the probable loss of two strikers for Wembley semi-final with England



Bilic of Croatia appears to kick the prostrate Ziegler of Germany

GERMANY are limping rather than marching towards their semi-final with England on Wednesday. Yesterday's win over Croatia came at a high cost, with both Jürgen Klinsmann, their captain and main striker, and his partner Fredi Bobic off the field and out of the game by half-time.

Klinsmann suffered a torn calf muscle, the victim of some cruel Croatian tackling. Bobic, a dislocated shoulder as he fell heavily. Both are almost certainly out of the game at Wembley on Wednesday.

"England can be looking forward to this game, because neither are likely to play on Wednesday," Bert Vogts, Germany's coach, said.

Germany had already been reduced to 20 players with the earlier loss of Kohler and Basler. They will now be down to 18 for the semi-final — and presumably for the final if

they should overcome England.

"I've torn a muscle, it's as simple and as bad as that," Klinsmann said after he had limped to the podium in the press conference. "It's the first time I've ever suffered an injury like that in my career, so I've no personal experience to go on. But the general wisdom is that these things take around 10 days to mend."

Klinsmann's disappointment was visible. Bobic was unable to reveal his, as he was on his way to hospital for x-rays. But perhaps the only surprise was that there were not more German wounded as Croatia began physically and then got worse after the dismissals of Šuker and Štimac was followed

quickly by Germany's second winning goal.

"I couldn't say it was the most physical game of the tournament, but it was certainly above average," Matthias Sammer, who had scored that goal, said. "But when we got onto the pitch we knew what was coming."

Perhaps no one had told Klinsmann. "It all happened in the opening moments, I got some bad kicks and hits on my leg," Klinsmann said. "I went to the touchline for treatment, but when I tried to come back onto the field I couldn't even stand on the leg."

Klinsmann at least took pride in his team's performance. "We are glad to have survived a very tough game,

and the team is looking forward to going to Wembley," he said. "We know we didn't play as well as we could, but the team has done very well to take in its stride the loss of Basler and Kohler and so many yellow cards."

"We have overcome all these things and maybe this will be the same as 1990. Then we only just scraped by against Czechoslovakia with a mediocre performance, but we went on to become world champions."

For their part Croatia were left bemoaning their luck, and complaining about the referee, particularly feeling that they should also have had a penalty. "It is difficult to accept defeat when it happens this

FOOTBALL: HOME ADVANTAGE PROVING TO BE AN INVALUABLE ALLY AS HOSTS RIDE THEIR LUCK INTO THE LAST FOUR

England on the crest of Wembley wave

ROB HUGHES



Football Correspondent

Spain 0
England 0
(aet; England win 4-2 on pens)

THOSE of us who forecast that the ceiling of England's potential was the semi-finals had better begin our revision. Once a team rolls with the luck, the layer upon layer of resolve and the partiality of refereeing decisions that all conspired to help them to beat Spain at Wembley on Saturday, the sky surely has to be the limit.

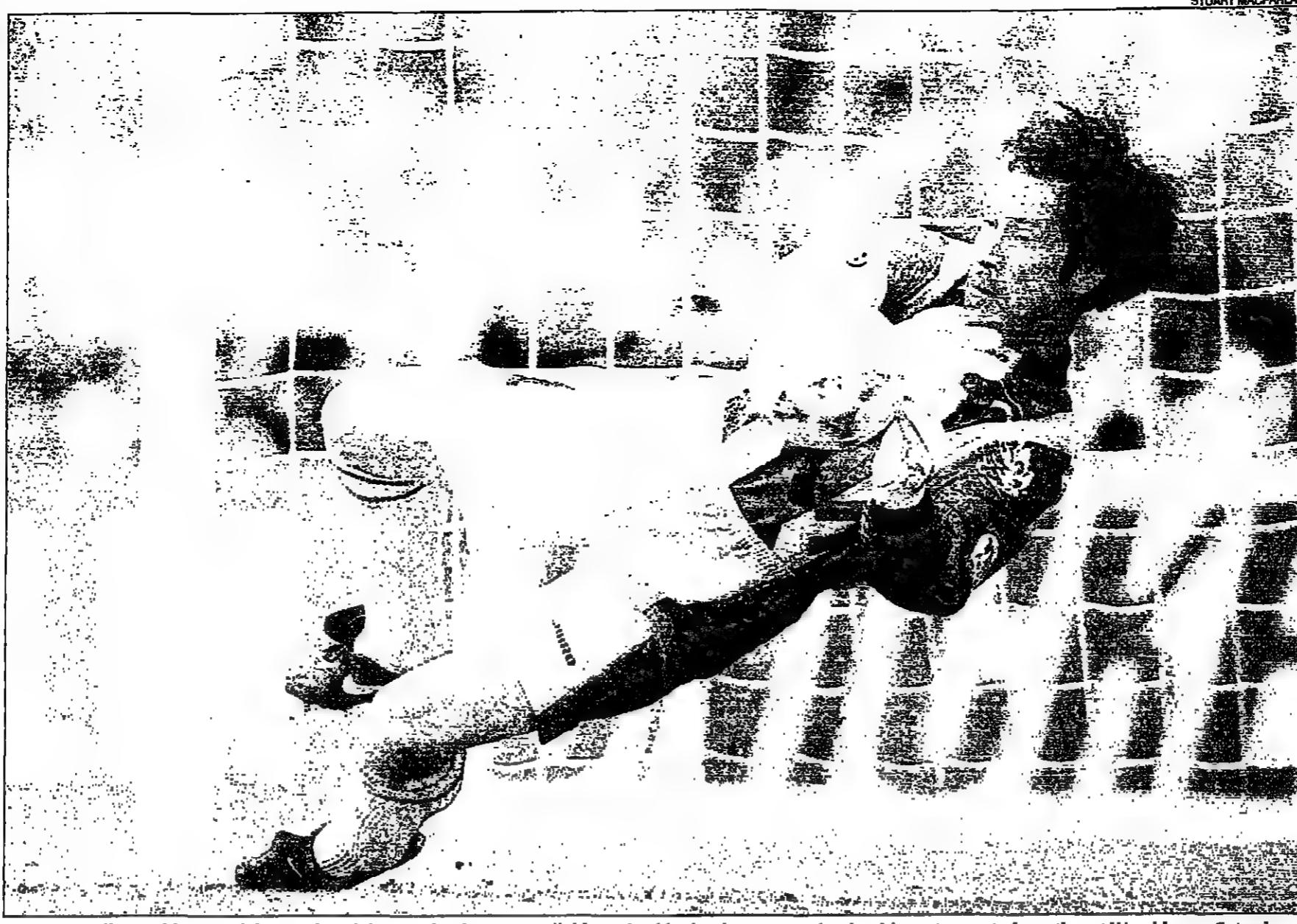
Let any rival come to the citadel of English football, for the odds seem so stacked against opponents that it is hard to say with conviction that the best team will necessarily win a match there; unless the best team turns out to be England.

On Saturday, despite the hollowness of the scoreline after two hours, the match had more cut and thrust than can be found in a burling. The Spaniards put up an almighty blockade. Nadal and Abelardo, at centre back, were men not merely of huge physique but, in Nadal's case, of an ability to move and toy with a football that made him far better than the picture painted of him based on his red-card image.

In front of them, the blockade before the blockade, Hierro would have been the man of the match had it not been for the penalty shoot-out, when his kick, Spain's first, struck the crossbar and fell it quivering above Seaman's head as a moving symbol of what was taking on the English is all about.

England deserved some kind of reward for their own absolute refusal to surrender to what appeared a better team, for courage that, in the captain, Tony Adams, was extreme. He, quite visibly, had had enough after 60, let alone 120 minutes of this fierce attrition. His knee, never granted reasonable time to recuperate after surgery in January, gave him grief; he appeared at times to be walking barefoot on a bed of nettles and yet when, deep into extra time, Kiko appeared to be through on the England goal, there was the lionheart Adams diving in with a tackle sweetly timed.

The tackling was not always that. It took precisely 30 seconds for Abelardo, with a violent assault on the heels of Shearer, to be shown the yellow card. The crowd bayed for it — the French referee, Marc Batte, was to become a clear favourite of theirs — and thereafter he deprived Spain of a perfectly



Seaman dives to block Nadal's penalty, giving England an unassailable 4-2 lead in the shoot-out and unleashing a tempest of emotion at Wembley on Saturday

good goal by Salinas, ruled offside, and denied them penalties when Gascoigne fouled in the area and again when Adams kicked at the back of Caminero.

After the first of those two incidents, M. Batte rubbed salt into the Spanish wound by taking the name of Alfonso, for allegedly diving. One had seen this official of Croatia, when "ordered" to do so by Schmeichel, the Danish goalkeeper. How are the players to behave when referees such as this are chosen to run the show?

Yet England, initially with four square at the back and with Platt attempting to emulate the tackles and solidity of Ince in front of that

defence, were always competitive. They too missed opportunities: Shearer scooping the ball up over the bar from a matter of yards and Sheringham failing to put boot to ball with the goal at his mercy.

England also had McManaman. In the second half at least, running tenaciously at the heart of this wounding Spanish rearguard, and they had Seaman, a goalkeeper who has distinguished himself in all four games. How phlegmatic the man is, making alarming moments appear as soothing as a fishing expedition with Gascoigne.

His save from Manjarin, a tackle outside his penalty area rather than an authentic goalkeeping manoeuvre, could, alone, have

spared England blushing in this match. Zubizarreta, playing for the 10th time for Spain, produced equal anticipation and reflexes, with a fine deflection from Shearer early on and, later, in calmly palming the ball over the bar after Adams had risen to a free kick.

As Wednesday approaches, there are three areas of concern. First, that Gary Neville, that fine Manchester United defender, will not be there; his recklessness in the tackle having brought a second yellow card in three matches.

It is typical of the modern professional that the England players should suggest that Sergi, the opponent tackled so late and so high by Neville, had accentuated

Gascoigne and Wembley, a dreadful memory of his self-wounding antics of the past, may yet deprive England of the one truly inspirational talent they possess. The time between now and then will be crucial for Gascoigne and the physiotherapist.

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"It was a different kind of game on Saturday," Venables said. "Wembley tried to outplay us but the Spanish came to stop us playing. We have got to fight until we drop when that happens and that is what we did. I was proud of their passion, and the professionalism of the penalty takers was outstanding. David Seaman showed that he is a great goalkeeper."

Seaman's save from Alfonso, who had excuse enough for harbouring a grudge. When play was halted for a Spanish injury in their half of the field, he then deliberately gave England possession when the referee restarted play with a drop-ball 10 yards inside the England half.

The match conspicuously illus-



Nadal contemplates his miss

Venables prepares to have the final say

THE message from the England dressing-room, Gary Neville said, after the win on Saturday against Spain, was "two to go" and Terry Venables did not alter it at Bisham Abbey yesterday (Oliver Holt writes). "At the risk of putting a damper on all this," the England coach said, "we just want to go on the whole way now."

Buoyed by news that neither Paul Gascoigne's bruised ankle, Teddy Sheringham's dead leg nor Tony Adams's knee injury should

threaten their participation in the semi-final with Germany on Wednesday, Venables predicted a "titanic struggle". They will be very hard to shift. They are a very, very team."

Venables said that Jamie Redknapp, the Liverpool midfield player who played so well against Scotland, may come into the reckoning for the game because of his swift recovery from a twisted ankle. He would not elaborate on his options for replacing the sus-

pended Neville at right back but it is thought likely his brother, Philip, will deputise.

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Once the formalities were over, Pearce's clenched-fist salute to the stand was directed straight at Liz. Does that answer your question? Young Clarence Seedorf, whose miss cost Holland a place in the semi-finals, should take heart from Pearce's joyous settling of scores.

Winning and losing, which had reached a spectacular crescendo, was secondary to the acknowledgement of the ten courageous men who had volunteered to be vilified forever. That night Chris Waddle, the other "villain" of the 1990 World Cup, committed an act of bravery almost the equal of Pearce's. He admitted on national television that he would not have had the nerve to take another. The experience had scarred him for life. Pearce had been similarly scarred, but when Terry Venables tentatively explored the possibility of penalties in training the day before the match, his full back stepped forward without hesitation. Venables was still not sure about it as he stepped on to the field to nominate his five. Shearer nodded first, then Platt and Fowler.

"I had pencilled Stu in, but I wondered whether I should put him in or not after what happened," the England coach said. "It was stupid of me even to doubt it. He was straight up to me: 'I'll take No. 5.'

Pearce, never the most articulate of men, talked later of what he had gone through since his penalty flew straight at Illgner on that glorious and miserable night in Turin six

years ago. The despair was crystallised in the question his wife, Liz, once put to him. "I could hear her words burning in my ear. She was sitting in the kitchen and she said: 'Why is it always you who misses penalties?' I said: 'Maybe because I'm always the guy that takes them!'

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The drama is compelling, simple and decisive and on Saturday there was something appropriate in the sudden insistence on individual glory after 120 minutes dedicated to the humdrum virtues of teamwork. Penalties test nerve and reveal character with astonishing clarity, but they make a mockery of team effort. Winning games on penalties is unsatisfactory enough, losing them brutal.

Vision of Gascoigne needed in advanced positions

By DAVID MILLER

IF WE allow ourselves to cheer too loud and too long the successful taking of four penalty kicks, we will fail to recognise the realities of England's quarter-final against Spain. The English game remains as it has fundamentally always been, one of running, on or off the ball, rather than manoeuvring the ball, excluding Stanley Matthews and a few others.

Shearer, Platt, Pearce and Gascoigne had the presence of mind, the composure, which is part of football's character, to take four exhilarating penalty kicks, which, when not awarded for foul play, are not part of the game's natural structure. England famously won a cup-tie, but hardly a match.

Holland's style had allowed Shearer, Sheringham, Anderton and McManaman the space to run, just as Germany's will in the semi-finals. But Spain mostly did not. Denied this space, by Spain pulling ten and even 11 men behind the ball, only Gascoigne possessed the technique to create openings and his lack of pace restricted the occasions on which he could go past markers. England's play in four matches so far has, in addition to collective will-power, been distinguished by three men: Seaman's noble performance in goal, McManaman's reminder of Bobby Charlton's days on the wing, and Gascoigne's vision, when he is not being smothered or dispossessed by swifter opponents.

Sheringham unwisely suggested, after the defeat of Holland, that England were in the class of Brazil. On Saturday he was less impressive even than a retired Brazilian, burdened as he appeared to be by the weight of his head. Recollections of Beardsley, Keegan and others of the past made Sheringham seem ponderously wooden.

Though Gascoigne's foul on Alfonso early in the second half was undoubtedly a penalty, which surrendered any claim to a moral victory up to that moment, the most sporting gesture of the afternoon

THE SHOOT-OUT

Shearer (Eng) scored	1-0
Hiero (Sp) missed	1-0
Platt (Eng) scored	2-0
Alfonso (Sp) missed	2-1
Pearce (Eng) scored	3-1
Batte (Sp) scored	3-2
Gascoigne (Eng) scored	4-2
Nadal (Sp) saved	4-2
England win 4-2 on pens	

Neville shows maturity far beyond tender years

BY OLIVER HOLT

THE tears of Paul Gascoigne, in Turin in 1990, set a fearsome standard for England players facing suspension to live up to, but, when the test came and the second yellow card of the tournament was flourished, Gary Neville, a young man who has known few reverses in his short but outstandingly successful career, failed it miserably.

Neville, 21, the Manchester United defender who was booked for a late lunge on Sergi early in the second half, played more steadily after the caution than before it even though he knew he was condemned to missing the semi-final. "I have got to get on with it," Neville said afterwards. "The boss has just said there is still the final to aim for and I know I have to be a supporter on Wednesday."

The main thing is that England have got through. It's not about Gary Neville. Sergi overreacted when I tackled him, but it was a booking. I just kept playing as well as I could. We were playing for 50 million people and I could not let them down because of my disappointment."

After a match that highlighted the individual poise and precision skills of four penalty-takers and

Mrs Pearce inspires penalty pay-off

Andrew Longmore on how an England player's wife helped to exorcise a ghost of the World Cup

In the moment of victory, only one England player acted with the dignity and humility of a victor and he was not the obvious candidate. When David Seaman saved Nadal's nervy penalty to take England into the semi-finals, Stuart Pearce did not join in the hugging and kissing, as he had every excuse to do. Instead, he sought out Fernando Hierro, whose early missed penalty prompted feelings that Pearce knew only too well. The tall, tireless, Spanish workhorse was siring dismally in the centre circle, drifting in the awfulness of defeat and crying desperately to rationalise his part in it. His colleagues had melted away and Hierro was alone.

Pearce's handshake, born of robust recognition of a fellow traveller rather than any sentimental consolation for the loser, went largely unnoticed in the chaos of celebration. But for those of us who have held Pearce's old-fashioned virtues in relative contempt these past few years, who have seen in the jackhammer thighs, unthinking hoof and macho spirit, the epitome of all that is wrong in English football, it prompted a true sense of remorse. Pearce had just exorcised his ghosts and he had no wish to see someone else inherit them, whatever their nationality. At that moment, the master of

winning and losing, which had reached a spectacular crescendo, was secondary to the acknowledgement of the ten courageous men who had volunteered to be vilified forever. That night Chris Waddle, the other "villain" of the 1990 World Cup, committed an act of bravery almost the equal of Pearce's. He admitted on national television that he would not have had the nerve to take another. The experience had scarred him for life. Pearce had been similarly scarred, but when Terry Venables tentatively explored the possibility of penalties in training the day before the match, his full back stepped forward without hesitation. Venables was still not sure about it as he stepped on to the field to nominate his five. Shearer nodded first, then Platt and Fowler.

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years ago. The despair was crystallised in the question his wife, Liz, once put to him. "I could hear her words burning in my ear. She was sitting in the kitchen and she said: 'Why is it always you who misses penalties?' I said: 'Maybe because I'm always the guy that takes them!'

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The only place to be at such times is in goal. The goalkeeper has nothing to lose. He cannot miss. He can only be the hero. Even David Seaman admitted as much. "I'd rather be facing them than taking them," he said. The takers walk the tightrope. Like a golfer faced with a five-foot putt to win the Open, a simple everyday act becomes invested with the experience of a lifetime. It can look easy or impossibly difficult: the goal the size of a hangar door or a keyhole, the goalkeeper a midget or a giant.

Peter Beardsley, not normally a penalty-taker, volunteered to take one against Germany in the 1990 semi-final because, having played so well, missing was out of the question.

Shearer, four goals in four games, Fowler, a confident young man, Platt, an experienced professional, Gascoigne, nervous. And Pearce, a man possessed by his own demons. A play within a play, rehearsals irrelevant. Shearer's confident opening penalty set the tone. Hierro's miss compounded the overwhelming belief that 75,000 people could not be wrong. But when Pearce strode six paces to thump the ball crisply past Zubizarreta's left hand and into the corner, England were all but home.

"You know," Pearce said. "It could all happen again on Wednesday night in the semi-final."

In the history of cup-tie football by England — and I have seen all but 17 of the 172 ties they have

played since 1950 — none was so agonisingly exciting as that on Saturday, other than the 1966 final.

It was simultaneously gratifying

and disappointing that England

should win as they did, by an

artificial conclusion yet with such a convulsive flourish.

Admiration for the four men executing the penalty kicks is unbounded. Yet I departed feeling sick for Hierro and Nadal, the two Spaniards who missed. Bernhard Langer's missed Ryder Cup putt is one thing, part of the

Vision of
Gascoigne
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EURO 96

DAILY TEAM-BY-TEAM GUIDE

ENGLAND

Tony Adams commanded centre stage at Bisham Abbey yesterday after his Herculean performance against Spain. The interview with the England captain was confirmed as the official leader in place of David Platt — who had been sprinkled with all his usual stirring stuff about all the boys being in it together, but he managed to raise a few laughs, too.

While those not involved in the game on Saturday took part in a full morning's training, including a game of one-touch in which Robbie Fowler shone, those of the first team who did not need treatment for their injuries went for a stroll down the banks of the River Thames, which winds its way past their training pitches towards Henley.

Adams, the only player offered for interview yesterday, was asked how his troublesome knee was faring. "It's fine," he said, "but there's because we have just been lying on our backs watching the balls go past. As long as I restrict myself to that! If it's OK." He said he could not explain why the England team, to a man, had stayed on their feet before the onset of extra time while Spain lay on the pitch like fallen soldiers. "As far as I'm concerned, though," he said, "I know that if I had sat down I would never have got up again."

And finally, before the tabloids start weighing in with the Stan Boardman jokes, Adams got one of his own in first. A journalist from Bild asked him if he had a word for the Germans. "I've got a word for them," Adams said, "but it wouldn't be right to tell you what it is."

CAUTIONS: Ince (2), G Neville (2). Adams: Shearer, Sheringham, Southgate, OH

DISMISSAL: Strunz

PB

GERMANY

Germany yesterday were putting the final touches on their plans for this morning's mass exodus, whether they were heading for London or Frankfurt. But the problems of the German FA, who had only the team delegation, and support staff to worry about, were small compared to the operation to clean up and move the media village which has grown up on the edge of the hotel grounds.

Given the size of the media corps, it is surprising that things have been so calm in the German camp, but transfer stories began to surface at the weekend, with rumours flying around that Barcelona are interested in Andreas Köpke. Köpke had agreed to join VfB Stuttgart, but his former club, Eintracht Frankfurt, asked for DM500,000; Stuttgart offered only DM200,000 — less than £100,000 — a modest sum for a goalkeeper proclaimed by Jürgen Klinsmann as one of the two best in the tournament.

Hence Barcelona's renewed interest, which has not pleased Bernd Vogts. "It says something about Andreas's class but we want peace and quiet at the moment and do not want to be bothered with speculation like this," Vogts said. Further disruption had come on Friday night, when they had to evacuate their hotel after a false fire alarm. "It must have been a very sensitive alarm, and we were only out of the hotel for a matter of minutes," Wolfgang Niersbach, the German press officer, said.

CAUTIONS: Babbel (2), Reuter, Hössler, Möller, Kuntz, Ziegler, Bierhoff, Sommer, Klinsmann

DISMISSAL: Strunz

PB

FRANCE

France progress, but at a price which could, ultimately, cost them dear. Christophe Dugarry, the centre forward, will take no further part in the tournament after damaging a cruciate ligament in his knee. Dugarry has been rested against Holland, because of injury worries, and has only been on for 18 minutes as a substitute before misfortune struck.

Dugarry's absence is a blow before the last functions for him, with him leading the team. He is due to leave Loko and Mecer to contest the front-running role that dictates so much of the French pattern of play. Only three forwards in a squad of 22 was a gamble, especially when a certain Anglophilic has been left without gainful employment.

Christian Karembeu will also miss the semi-final, a victim of his own stupidity. He was booked, for the second time in the tournament, after refusing to retreat ten yards at a free kick. "I have paid a heavy penalty. I hope my team-mates will help me by reaching the final," he said. "I would like to win the tournament now, in honour of my friend, Clarence Seedorf, who missed the penalty against us. He has asked me to win for him, and we will try hard to do it."

After their victory, described as "lucky" by Aimé Jacquet, their coach, France did not, this time, celebrate too extensively. Instead they returned to their hotel near Wigan, perhaps glad to have finally taken residence from the Russians. No one realised that Wigan, Orwellian landscape of piers and plies, held such attraction.

CAUTIONS: Karembeu (2), di Meo, Blanc, Djorkaeff, Desailly, Dugany, Deschamps

DM

PORTUGAL

With a small press corps and few supporters here, there has been little pressure on Portugal. "The spirit in the camp is high," Antonio Oliveira, the Portugal coach, said on Saturday, "and we are confident. We don't feel any pressure from comparisons with the team of 1986. We've won nothing but we don't need to match those teams. We're just out to prove that this generation of players is a good one. Reaching the quarter-finals is an achievement, so anything after that would be a success."

They may have reasons for hoping for greater things in future years, with a young team, most of whom played together in the youth team that won the World Youth Cup. The Portuguese FA having decided to revamp their football after 1986 with considerable success. If only they had a striker.

There was one unsettling story in the camp over the weekend, with rumours circulating that the captain, Vitor Balá, has moved to Barcelona and broken down. Balá refused to comment, with Oliveira banning transfer talk from the camp as a distraction, but it explained Barcelona's renewed interest in the German goalkeeper.

Oliveira, however, was happy to give his support to the players' request to dedicate the game to the children of East Berlin, where the Indonesians have made it illegal to listen to Portugal's games on the radio and they are not allowed to be shown on television.

CAUTIONS: Paixão (2), Oceano, Sa Pinto, João Pinto, Paulo Souza, Figo, Tavares

PB

SPAIN

It was billed in the Spanish media, banting at the ugly racism of the English tabloid press, as *The Brave Bull Against the Mad Cow* (a genuine headline in March). The bull, they claimed yesterday, was put to the sword unfairly not by a better England team, but by a biased referee.

"You can't play against 11 men, 70,000 fans and three officials," Julio Salinas, the Spain centre forward, said. "We were cheated. We came into the European championship the worst prepared of any team, still silenced our critics but we were not able to beat all that against us."

Not exactly unused to saying it straight, Javier Clemente, the coach, went one further. "We were the better team. We earned England in their own stadium, despite all their advantages and we are only going home because the penalty process does not reward the better team," he said.

The tournament will miss Clemente, who returns, surprisingly, a hero to his homeland. After defeating Romania, Spain were branded pathetic. Now they are portrayed as heroes. "Do not cry, Spain gave England a lesson in football in the home of the game," Marca said.

Clemente left a message for England, and a typically controversial one. Gascoigne is not the England star, merely an overweight lager lout. The star is that shining beacon of silky skills — Gareth Southgate. "He is at the heart of everything creative England do," he said. "Come again, Javier?"

CAUTIONS: Sergi (2), Abascal (2), Caminero, Amor, Luis Enrique, Aravaca, Cifri, Kiko, Nadal, Beluso, Alfonso

DISMISSAL: Pizzi

DM

CROATIA

Croatia has been one of the more relaxed training camps to visit during Euro 96, with little of the "team v press turbulence" experienced at other less harmonious headquarters. Apart from a slight stirring of relationships after their opening and unexpected 1-0 win over Turkey, and the criticism levelled at Mirko Blazevic, the coach, after he had left out seven players for the game against Portugal, which they lost 3-0, all has been relative smoothness and light.

Much of the Croatian content is due to their love of chess, the national pastime in the former state of Zagreb, Split and Osijek. It is unlikely that Paul Gascoigne enjoys such a cerebral pursuit — though he has been known to utter "I'll have a cheque, mate" — but for Zvonimir Boban, the Croatian captain, no day is complete until he has pitted his wits against Blazevic or Otto Baric, the assistant coach.

However, it is the Blazevic-Baric confrontations that transcend all others, with their duels often extending long into the night. On one occasion, Baric fell foul of his rival's mischievous sense of humour and took unkindly to suggestions that he had been aided by one of the players removing a piece from the board when Blazevic was not looking.

The meeting of minds got serious. DM100 was laid on the table and the battle of kings and queens commenced. Baric should have known better; he was but a mere pawn. The boss, twinkle in eye as ever, won 2-1.

CAUTIONS: Asanovic, Boban, Soldo, Stjepic, Proslinek, Vrancic, Pavic, Jurić, Pavlic

DISMISSAL: Stjepic

RK

HOLLAND

It was difficult not to feel a sliver of sympathy for Guus Hiddink, the Holland coach, after the Dutch had departed the European championship finals at Anfield on Saturday. Not only for the misfortune that appeared to befall him and his squad, but also because of the patient and courteous manner in which he conducted himself throughout training times.

Hiddink, 49, is a former coach of Fenerbahce, in Turkey, and Valencia, in Spain, where he presumably honed his skills at dealing with the fanatical, and often illogical, attractions of the local and national media. Whether conversing in Dutch or English during Euro 96, he always offered considered, rational and humorous responses to even the most banal of questions — a lesson that might not go amiss at many a FA Camping Premiership establishment.

What did he think of the decision when Holland were denied an obvious penalty, after Desailly had handled, during normal time in their quarter-final against France? "I haven't seen the replay yet," he said, "but if it was inside the area, as I am told, then that is a shame. A great shame." Can you imagine how high Alan Ball's fist would have risen, or how purple Ron Atkinson's face would have raged, had similar injustices been meted out to Manchester City or Coventry City?

"France are a strong side, a strong unit, who have a lot of clever players," Hiddink added. "We gave them a good game, we created a lot of chances, but it was not enough."

CAUTIONS: Witschge, Taumert, Seedorf, Winter, Blind, Bergkamp, de Kock, Kuilven, Sogard

RK

CZECH REPUBLIC

Every Euro 96 side has thrust a hitherto little-known player into the limelight. For the Czechs that player is Radek Bezdík. He is tall, blonde and stands out in anyone's company. But he has proved a menace to opposing sides as he blasts his way through midfield.

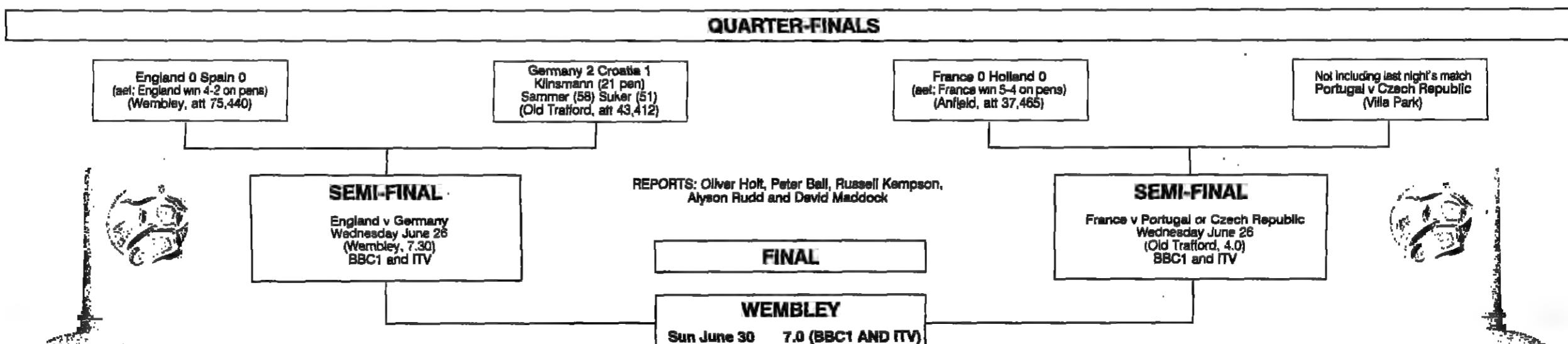
No doubt aware of the impact that he would make during Euro 96, Slavia Prague extended his contract in generous terms just before he left for England. But since when has a contract ever been used to negotiate? At present Bezdík's future is in talks with the club — but not the player. A larger-than-might-be-expected posse of French journalists have been attending the Czech Republic's training sessions but so far Bezdík himself is blissfully unaware of what is going on.

We used to associate eastern European teams with strict discipline. The liberated Czech Republic is now all far removed from that stigma as it could possibly be. Preparation for the game last night was gentle: a barbecue with wives and girlfriends, light stretching exercises, lazy summer-day lie-ins.

Puma is impressed, though, and quickly announced a new sponsorship deal once the Czechs reached the knockout phase, trebling its cash commitment to the side. The only downside from the players' point of view is that the Puma/Czech mascot is an enormous green liger dressed in the team kit and it follows them everywhere.

CAUTIONS: Nedved (2), Kadlec (2), Drulák, Bezdík, Kuka, Suchopárek, Nemec

AR



HOW THE GROUPS FINISHED

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	2	1	0	7	2	7	France	3	2	1	0	5	2	7	Germany	3	2	1	0	5	0	7
Holland	3	1	1	1	3	4	4	Spain	3	1	2	0	4	3	5	Czech Rep	3	1	1	1	5	6	4
Scotland	3	1	1	1	2	4	4	Bulgaria	3	1	1	1	3	4	4	Italy	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Switzerland	3	0	1	2	1	4	1	Romania	3	0	0	3	1	4	0	Russia	3	0	1	2	4	8	1

GROUP A

England 1 Switzerland 1
Shearer (23) Turkey (83 pen) (Wembley, attendance 76,567)
Holland 0 Scotland 0
Villa Park, attendance 34,363
Switzerland 0 Holland 2
Cruyff (65) Bergkamp (78) (Villa Park, attendance 36,800)
England 2 Scotland 0
Shearer (53) Gascoigne (79) (Wembley, attendance 76,864)
Scotland 0 Switzerland 0
McCoist (37) (Villa Park, attendance 34,928)
England 4 Holland 1
Shearer (23 pen, 57) Sheringham (51, 62) Kluivert (78) (Wembley, attendance 76,796)

GROUP B

Spain 1 Bulgaria 1
Alfonso (73) Stoichkov (65 pen) (Elland Road, attendance 26,006)
Romania 0 France 1
Dugarry (24) (St James' Park, attendance 26,323)
Bulgaria 1 Romania 0
Stoichkov (3) (St James' Park, attendance 19,107)
France 1 Spain 1
Djorkaeff (48) Caminero (85) (Elland Road, attendance 35,826)
France 3 Bulgaria 1
Blanc (20) Penov (63 og) Loko (60) Stoichkov (69) (St James' Park, attendance 26,975)
Romania 1 Spain 2
Raducioiu (29) Manjarin (11) Amor (83) (Elland Road, attendance 32,719)

GROUP C

Germany 2 Czech Republic 0
Ziegler (25) Möller (31) (Old Trafford, attendance 37,300)
Italy 2 Russia 1
Casiraghi (5, 52) Symboler (20) (Anfield, attendance 35,120)
Czech Republic 1 Italy 1
Nedved (4) Bezdík (39) Chiesa (18) (Anfield, attendance 37,320)
Russia 0 Germany 3
Sommer (56) Klinsmann (77, 90) (Old Trafford, attendance 50,760)
Italy 0 Germany 0
(Old Trafford, attendance 53,740)
Russia 3 Czech Republic 3
Mostovoi (49) Tetradze (64) Beschastrykh (65) Suchopárek (6) Kuka (19) Smicer (89) (Anfield, attendance 21,128)

GROUP D

Denmark 1 Portugal 1
B Leudrup (21) Sá Pinto (52) (Hillsborough, attendance 34,993)
Turkey 0 Croatia 1
Visović (88) (City Ground, attendance 22,480)
Portugal 1 Italy 0
Couto (66) (City Ground, attendance 22,870)
Croatia 3 Denmark 0
Suker (53 pen, 90) Boden (61) (Hillsborough, attendance 33,671)
Italy 0 Portugal 3
Figo (4) João Pinto (33) Domingos (83) (City Ground, attendance 20,484)
Portugal 0 Denmark 3
B Laudrup (50, 84) Nielsen (70) (Hillsborough, attendance 28,951)

PREVIOUS WINNERS
1980 USSR
1984 Spain
1988 Italy
1972 West Germany
1976 Czechoslovakia
1980 West Germany
1984 France
1988 Holland
1992 Denmark

RUNNERS-UP
1980 Yugoslavia
1984 USSR
1988 Yugoslavia
1972 USSR
1976 West Germany
1980 Belgium
1984 Spain
1988 USSR
1992 Germany

LATEST BETTING
15-8: Germany
15-8: England
8-2 France
9-1 Portugal
14-1: Czech Republic
13-8: Odds by Ladbrokes

LEADING SCORERS:
1: A Shearer (England)
2: J Klinsmann (Germany)
3: B Laudrup (Denmark)
4: H Stoichkov (Bulgaria)
5: D Suker (Croatia)
6: P Casiraghi (Italy)
7: M Sommer (Germany)
8: E Sheringham (England)

Graphic: Geoffrey Scott; Paul Brindley

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CRICKET: STEWART STEERING ENGLAND TOWARDS SAFETY IN A SECOND TEST WINNING FEW POINTS FOR ENTERTAINMENT

India's newcomers make their mark

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT**LORD'S** (fourth day of five-
England, with eight second-
innings wickets in hand, are
28 runs ahead of India)

IT WOULD have taken a startlingly good Test match to hold the attention of the sporting nation this weekend and Lord's, for all its splendour and ceremony, has not provided it. Unless England bat remarkably badly today, the second game of this Cornhill series will end in the draw which has loomed large since early on Friday.

This will be thought disappointing, partly because the modern cricket watcher is unaccustomed to stalemate but also because England, unusually, were expected to win. India, however, have learned from the starkness of their defeat at Edgbaston. They came here determined not to lose and, through infinitely more resourceful batting, that priority will be achieved.

An India victory is not inconceivable, for England's lead is slender and they have already lost both Michael Atherton and Nasser Hussain. Not the first paradox of this game is that the man steering them towards safety,

India's young Stars 32
Benson suffers 32
Sunday League 33

last evening, was Alec Stewart, who would not even have played but for Nick Knight failing a fitness test.

It has not been edge-of-the-seat entertainment. Only 22 wickets have fallen in four days and, with a day to come, the runs aggregate is barely more than half the total amassed in the corresponding fixture of 1990. Apart from the emotional welcome for Dickie Bird and the acclaim for centuries by Jack Russell and Sourav Ganguly, the crowd was at its most animated while England were taking penalties up the road at Wembley.

This does not make it a irredeemably poor match, simply one of old-fashioned pace, of measured tread. Batsmen have been unable to score fast enough to advance the game. This has suited India's main purpose perfectly well and by shedding the cavalier legacies of a one-day overdoze, they have never been in danger of defeat.

Their newcomers have so excelled themselves that a slice of cricket history was almost attained. For two debutants to score centuries in the same innings — even the same match — is unknown in Test cricket, yet Rahul Dravid was only five runs short of emulating Ganguly when he fell to the third new ball yesterday afternoon.

England will have found it chastening to be confined to the field for almost two days and worrying that their bowling could look innocuous for so long. An attack mono-



Dravid, who fell five runs short of a century in his maiden Test innings, forces a short ball through the offside at Lord's yesterday

polised by seam is seldom a good idea and none of England's five have posed as much threat as either of the India new-ball bowlers, Venkatesh Prasad and Venkatesh Prasad.

Chris Lewis produced the ball of the match to pitch on and hit Sachin Tendulkar's off stump and generally looked the likeliest to take wickets. Peter Martin atoned, with a spell of good line and consistent outswing yesterday morning, for some tame stuff on Saturday but Alan Mullally, who maintained an admirable line through the third day, regressed on the fourth. The jury remains out on him.

Too often, the line of the bowlers erred so spectacularly that Russell was obliged to take off, in either direction, to avoid conceding byes. It was not Russell's finest work for England, and 11 byes were recorded against him, but he will feel the bowlers made his life unnecessarily hard.

The pavilion flags flew at half-mast yesterday morning, following news of the death of Ray Lindwall, and a fourth near-capacity crowd was taking in time in arriving. The latecomers must have known something, for it took England more than three hours to prise out the remaining four Indian wickets, by which point a

deficit of 85 had been registered.

David Lloyd's attention to detail, as England coach, extends to gathering data on how and where each of the opposition batsmen score their runs. He felt well prepared on both Ganguly and Dravid; whether he felt his bowlers carried out instructions is more arguable. Dravid could not match the elegance of his colleague but he equalled his tenacity and spent the morning session adding only 23 runs.

Kumble was out within the first hour, a shuffle across his stumps against Martin giving umpire Hair little option but to raise his previously reluctant finger. Srinath led a charmed life until Mullally bowled him behind his legs and Dravid was into his seventh hour at the crease when Lewis ended his dreams of immortality.

England now had to bat out half the day with no ambition of anything but a draw. At first, this was a thoroughly uncomfortable mission as Srinath endorsed his stature as the best bowler on either side through a withering spell against Atherton. The England captain was almost caught at short-leg, spooned an attempted pull just over the infield and needed all his

instincts to drop his hands against a series of lifting balls. He was also struck painfully on his right index finger, bursting a blood vessel.

Having somehow negotiated all this, Atherton set sail with more assurance after tea, only to be cut short by a dramatic leg break from Kumble which pitched on middle stump and turned sharply to hit off. It was a wonderful delivery, the highlight of a somewhat humdrum day.

Stewart will not think so. Presented with time and opportunity to restore his England credentials, he responded busily. Offering a possible leg-side chance to Mongia off Kumble, he was otherwise in command; his feet working more nimbly than of late. He lost Hussain with four overs remaining, bizarrely caught at cover as he tried to withdraw from a planned hook, but this morning he will fancy his chances of the century that will give the selectors pause for thought.

Atherton made to struggle for peace of mind

MICHAEL HENDERSON



At Lord's

For half an hour yesterday afternoon, as India battled to get back into a game that was becoming drier by the minute, Michael Atherton looked an ordinary batsman. He has a claim to being the most reliable opener in Test cricket, after Mark Taylor of Australia, and it was a mark of Srinath's excellence that when he had the ball in his hand, the England captain could only hang on for dear life.

It is too early to say that Atherton has lost his form; better to say he is having the sort of problems that afflict all experienced batsmen from time to time. He is not moving his feet properly and he might be feeling that he is receiving more good balls than the chap at the other end. In this mood he expects the worst that the bowlers can hurl at him and wears a pinched expression, as if he mistrusts the world at large.

What can a batsman do when he's out of nick except keep batting? To keep his bowing arm in shape Yehudi Meuhlin used to practise the violin for three hours every day, no matter what. A batsman is less fortunate because, however valuable nets may be on days off, he can never replicate the heat of battle. As Alec Stewart went to his fifty last night, Atherton probably thought: "O!! Those are my runs you're making".

It is now five matches since Atherton made the last, and most outstanding, of his nine Test hundreds, in Johannesburg. That is not a great gap but, for his own peace of mind, he ought to add a tenth soon. After weathering the storms of Ambrose and Walsh, Donald and Pollock, and a variety of Australians, it is possible he is not concentrating as fully as he should against a bowling team that lacks depth. Though he cannot understate Srinath, who is a high-class fast-medium bowler, or Prasad.

Srinath peppered him, there is no doubt about that. Atherton took every ball of his first four overs, and there is not one he played with absolute conviction. He could have been leg-before almost at once and, in Srinath's second over, he was beaten in four different ways, almost offering a catch at short-leg as well as being cut in two by a vicious break-back.

In the third over he essayed an unconvincing pull shot that split the field, his front leg in the air like a frantic dancer performing a Scottish reel. It was the stroke of a man trying

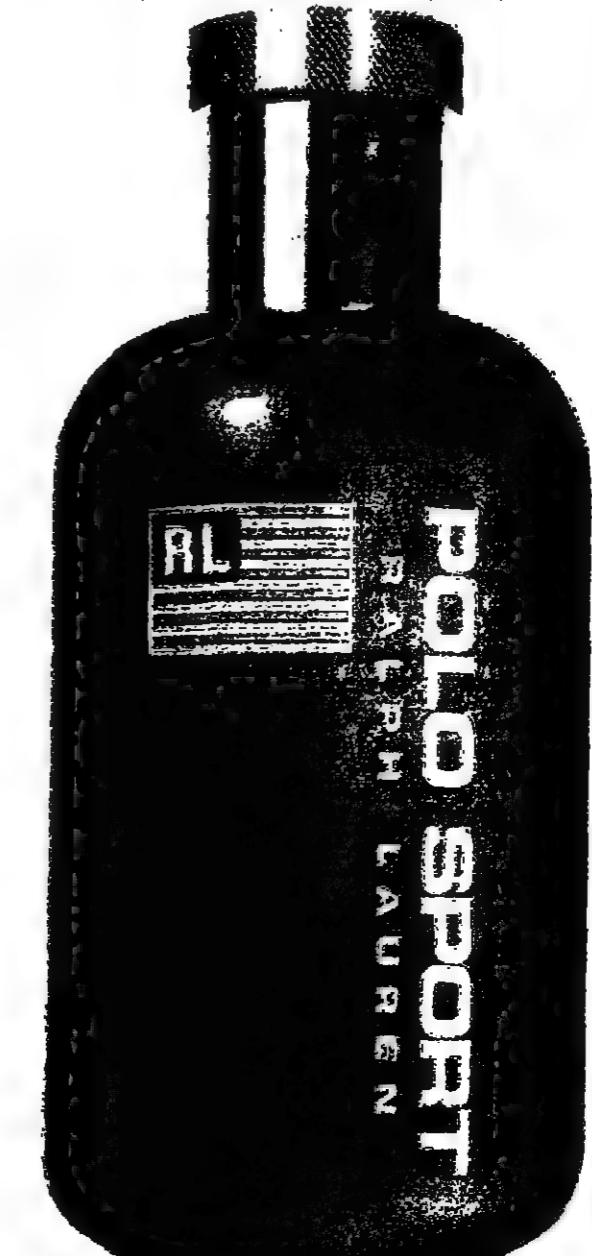
hard to break a bowler's spell, and on many other days it would have cost him his wicket. Then, painfully, he was hit on his bottom hand as he withdrew it from the bat handle.

Not for the first time this summer Srinath went unrewarded for an outstanding piece of bowling. Where England's bowlers looked toothless, unable to worry the India batsmen in the first part of the day, Srinath generated pace and got the ball to go past the bat at a fair height. He did not get his man but he reminded Atherton that, so long as he is around, batting will never be easy, even on a placid

pitch. The game needed that red-blooded passage, for there was little else to get worked up about. This has been an old-fashioned Test, with the batsmen spreading their runs grudgingly through each session. India, who bated so sloppily at Edgbaston, have been so determined to show they can play responsibly, to the point of self-denial. That is not to denigrate the efforts of Dravid, who came within five runs of emulating Ganguly's hundred on his debut. He showed the virtue of an unfussy approach against bowling that lacked devilment. It is that failure, rather than Atherton's current form, that should concentrate the minds of England's think-tank.

He has not started the season in the brightest form for Lancashire, and England cannot long sustain a captain out of kilter. Without Atherton's hand on the tiller their batting is often rudderless. They may get away with it against India, but Pakistan, with their superior bowling resources, will ask tougher questions.

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Azharuddin's courage reaps rewards

John Woodcock rejoices in the two splendid
innings which have illuminated the Lord's Test

THERE is nothing like a good English pitch and a modern England bowling attack, especially one devoid of spin, for putting visiting batsmen at their ease. Had the pitch for the first Test match at Edgbaston not been such a poor one, the Indians would no doubt have discovered the vacuity of this there, and not had to wait until Lord's before doing so.

In this second Test they have had one crucial stroke of luck: they won the toss and were thus spared from batting first. If Azharuddin feels he is letting his side down with the magic wand which passes for his bat, his courage in putting England in here, despite the calamitous consequences of having done the same on the corresponding occasion six years ago, has more than made up for it. It could be said to have saved a tour.

Had India been batting last Thursday morning, with the ball moving about prodigiously, they could well have been routed. Normally it is only at Headingley under low cloud that the bat is beaten with such frequency as it was in the first two or three hours of England's first innings. By Friday afternoon, when India went in, the fire and fizziness had gone out of the pitch, and, but for the ball with which Lewis bowled, a real beauty, they might easily have come closer than they did to the 60s for nine which they made at the Oval in their last but one Test match in this country.

As entertainment, the present match has been a big disappointment. In very different conditions, England made things happen at Edgbaston: at Lord's, where thrust and variety in bowling have come to be needed, they have dropped away again, not least because of their choice of a one-paced attack. Contrast in pace not only gives a captain more options and a game more interest: it prevents batsmen from settling down.

David Lloyd's influence was evident

during India's innings with one or two new and carefully-conceived field placings — a very fine leg slip for Ganguly, for example, and two square legs, one just either side of the umpire, for Azharuddin; but there was no compensating for the absence of a proper English spinner.

It was splendid to see a young Bengali playing such a vital and resolute innings for India as Ganguly's, and parading so handsomely the left-hander's natural cover drive. In the 64 years for which India have played Test cricket the only other Bengali to have made a hundred for them was Pankaj Roy, and Ganguly got his chance on this tour only as a

replacement for the wayward Vinod Kambla. For over seven hours on Friday and Saturday his self-discipline and technique were remarkable — and he is not yet 23.

As a source of cricketing talent Calcutta is as untapped as it is incalculable. If the monsoon allowed it, the fact that one of its multitude, Sourav Ganguly, has become only the third player to make a Test hundred at Lord's on his debut will have penetrated all the improvised games that went on at the weekend, on feld street or teeming Maidan, in that incredible city. Ganguly's innings will have done much good and brought great joy. The two other batsmen to have got off the

last man in Test cricket with a century at Lord's were Harry Graham, for Australia, in 1993 and John Hampshire, for England, against West Indies in 1960.

Then came Rahul Dravid, from southern India, who, like Ganguly, soon found that the reason why England's bowlers came and looked him in the eye after following through was because they could contrive no more constructive or laudable way of asserting themselves. Dravid is, if anything, a more instinctive player than Ganguly. He is certainly more typically oriental, his game hinging to a greater degree on eye and wrist. He, too, must wish that life always consisted of batting against England at Lord's, with the sun shining and Cork and Martin bowling from one end and Lewis, Mullally and Irfani from the other.

Lastly, and briefly, a word about

Bird, who takes his final bow in Test cricket today, the first umpire in any sport to have enjoyed star billing. Walking down Piccadilly in his flat white cap, this unusually self-effacing Yorkshireman would be more widely recognised than anyone in Parliament, other than the Prime Minister, or in the Church, other perhaps than the Pope, or from the stage or in industry. If television is responsible for that, so also is Bird's own ingenuousness.

I left the acclaim accorded to him at the start of this Test match, and the fuss the two teams made, as though all the kings and queens of England were about to appear, would have been better left until this evening. But I was told that that was mean of me, and it was indeed a most affectionate tribute, one that would have been paid only to an essentially honest and unexpectedly resilient figure. At his best Dickie Bird has been an exceptional umpire — more an Alex Skelding or a Bill Reeves of the day than a Frank Chester, the doyen of them all.

Ganguly acknowledges the Lord's crowd after becoming only the third player to score a century on his Test debut at the ground

Pressure points approach for Wimbledon favourites

TENNIS is unique in sport. No other ball game involving physical and mental stress brings the competitor into such exposed, intimate contact with the audience, for up to four hours or more. And Wimbledon is unique to tennis, the misleading gentility of grass giving a drawing-room ambience.

All great sport has a special theatrical drama: *Henry V* or *Cinderella*, without knowing the outcome in advance. Sel-don before has Wimbledon had, as this year, a cast of famous faces almost all of whom are worried by the uncertainties or vulnerabilities of personal grief, private intrigue, prolonged injury, advancing years or fickle form.

Last week Thomas Muster withdrew after aggravating a thigh injury playing in a tournament in Halle, Germany. Earlier, however, Muster had made clear his resentment that his clay-court

status was ignored by the All England Club committee, and rightly so, when making him only the No 7 seed. He should be reminded that Manuel Santana, Bjorn Borg and Andre Agassi have somehow managed to play at Wimbledon from the baseline.

Yet what of Pete Sampras, Boris Becker, Agassi himself, Stefan Edberg, Goran Ivanisevic, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Michael Stich, Steffi Graf and Monica Seles? One doubt or another surrounds the nine most conspicuous players and, from midday today, their every move will be scrutinised as at no other time of the year. The rewards may be huge, but few people live their life in surroundings of such unrelenting judgment.

Sampras opens on Centre Court against his compatriot, Tim Gullikson. Beneath his outwardly level temperament lies a confusing sensitivity. As he attempts to win a fourth

successive title, the inner turmoil from the death of his friend and coach, Tim Gullikson is an imponderable factor that may undermine his endurance. Few great sportsmen are impersonal automa-

tons and the human side of Sampras may now be at odds with his professionalism.

He slumped from physical

tiredness

and though his defeat in an exhibition tournament on Saturday is of little account, we cannot know the state of his mind. Time will reveal it, but Reneberg, Mark Philippoussis, the young Australian, and Ivanisevic lie in wait to exploit any frailty.

Becker, at 28, is a veteran

among the young brigade of big-hitters. Seven times in 11

years he has been in the final,

winning three of them, and the

menace of his serve-and-volley

game was seen to be undimin-

ished when he won at Queen's.

A unusually measured man, who has made a

success of a controversial

mixed-race marriage, Becker

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stimulus, his *rason d'être* and

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Agassi remains a showman to the last

On the face of it, this was hardly the game of the day, let alone the game of the championship or the decade. It was riddled with errors and produced no outstanding rallies or points. But for sheer unscripted drama, for the suddenness of the denouement and the shocking unlikeliness of the result, the last of the 50 games that Andre Agassi and Goran Ivanisevic played on a sunny afternoon on the Centre Court four years ago is unparalleled in Wimbledon history.

For a few flickering seconds, fantasy rode roughshod over reality. It was as if Hollywood's finest scriptwriters had been let loose and ordered to concoct the most courageous piece of fiction. Yet there before our very eyes was this scruffy little imp in white, lying face down on the hallowed turf beneath the royal box and pretending to be the Wimbledon champion. Even the umpire was dazzled by disbelief. He scored the last point to Ivanisevic.

The clock showed 5.27 on the evening of July 5, 1992, when Ivanisevic, tall and dark, stalked back to the roller end to serve at 4-5 in the final set. A few in the press box were beginning to calculate deadlines and sacrifice allegiances in the interests of a quick finish.

The flow of aces from the Croatian's racket, which at times threatened to blow holes in the little American, showed no sign of drying up. He had already served ten in four games in the final set, taking his tally for the match to 37 and a record-breaking 206 for the tournament. Agassi was within sight of victory, but such was the ease of Ivanisevic's service action that the one tantalising game he needed to crown a fortnight of astonishing brilliance might as well have been placed at the far end of a minefield. He had not broken service since the first game of the third set.

Agassi's critics — and there were plenty casting around for a villain in the post-McEnroe era — already had the ending written in their minds. It had happened so many times before: necks of genius in a tapestry of broken promises. They were surprised he had come this far, a little impressed even. They knew in their hearts, though, that once the heat rose in the

GAME, SET AND MATCH

Andrew Longmore recalls one of the most dramatic and unlikely climaxes to a men's final

kitchen Agassi would be found in the living room with a beer in his hand or at the bank depositing another huge cheque. He was rich beyond dreams, but only in money, not in the currency by which champions are measured.

Twice Agassi had reached the final of the French Open on supposedly his favourite clay surface — twice he lost. Once to the old warrior, Andres Gomez, the second time to his countryman, Jim Courier, when a break for rain broke his rhythm. He had lost the final of the US Open, too. "Image is everything," as the man said. Agassi's nerve was the consistency of tissue paper.

On his return to Wimble-

don the previous year, Agassi had done little to dispel the doubts. He had played the showman to perfection, played some good tennis too, but had bowed out in the quarter-finals with one of those mystery injuries which tended to preface defeat. What no one had noticed, because they thought it was all part of the act, was how at home Agassi looked on grass.

He did not need time to adapt. His dancer's feet and gunlinger's hands suited grass better than clay and his mind reacted well to the need for instant decisions. As a child, he had been made to stand inside the baseline to receive services hit by his father from the service line, about a cricket pitch length away.

In the quarter-finals, Boris

Becker paid the price for those hours of reflex-sharpening. The three-times Wimbledon champion was helpless, humiliated. No one had ever stood that close or hit his best serves that early or that hard. "He hit some shots that were not in the book," Becker said. From being an object of harmless fun, a sideshow, Agassi turned into a mainstream threat. An ageing McEnroe proved no match in the semi-final.

So it was on to Ivanisevic and another curiosity. In the face of mounting criticism of the dominance of the service and the dullness of the men's tennis, the All England Club found an improbable protector in the Las Vegas.

If Agassi won Wimbledon

from the baseline against the biggest of the big servers, all would be right with the world. In the royal box one or two officials were inwardly urging on the American, but none could have known how swiftly their hopes would be fulfilled.

A little breeze stirred the still afternoon, just enough to unsettle Ivanisevic. He threw the ball a fraction too high and lost his rhythm. A double fault; 0-15. In the stand, Bob Brett, his coach, shifted uneasily. Surely that brittle Croatian temperament would not crack now? Another double fault; 0-30. Agassi had been cruising, waiting for this moment, but the next two services were strong and Agassi had no answer; 30-30.

You wondered how long Agassi's heart would hold out. He needed another chance; a forehand pass left Ivanisevic stranded and one stroke away from defeat; 30-40. An ace, surely?

The first service dipped into the bottom of the net. The second was sharp and deep, but Agassi drilled it back. It was comfortably within reach and a comfortable height and, though Ivanisevic was not a great volleyer, on any other point he would have been good enough. But he misjudged the pace fractionally and his backhand volley smacked into the net. Agassi was champion in only his thirteenth match on grass.

BOXING

Lewis eyes Moorer showdown

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

LENNOX LEWIS could be the next opponent for Michael Moorer, the International Boxing Federation (IBF) heavyweight champion, if the Londoner's promoters can come up with the right offer. After Moorer lifted the title by outpointing Axel Schulz of Germany, at Dortmund on Saturday, his manager, John Davimos, said he would be prepared to defend against Lewis if the money was right. Davimos said that he had already been approached by Don King for a unification bout with Mike Tyson and Lewis would have to improve on King's offer.

"I have four opponents in mind," Davimos said. "Mike Tyson, Lennox Lewis, Riddick Bowe and George Foreman. I have already been approached by Don King for a fight with Tyson but whoever comes up with the most money gets the fight."

"If Lennox can find the money we will fight him but I can't see his people beating King. Bowe is another very likely opponent but I think George Foreman is doubtful. That fight is up to Michael. If he wants it, it would happen." Frans Botha, of South Africa, is the mandatory challenger for Moorer's title but Davimos thinks he can be bypassed. Botha, who won the vacant IBF title last December by beating Schulz, was later stripped of it by a New Jersey court after being tested positive for anabolic steroids.

Maranta is hoping for a recovery for the game on Saturday against Challenge Cup finalists Bradford Bulls. But the key will be the matches later in the season against Wigan and St Helens, where he hopes for a crowd of 12,000. The target is an average gate of 6,000.

The 1996 season is a learning curve. The 1997 season will be crucial. Can Barry Maranta convert southern sports to rugby league? Don't bet against it.

JASON NISSE



Agassi sinks to his knees, overwhelmed with emotion, at the end of a gruelling men's final that saw him prove his critics wrong and win the Wimbledon title

Commentators well matched for partiality



MATTHEW BOND

TV ACTION REPLAY

So far in Euro 96, all the signs have been that none of us give a yellow card about which broadcaster is showing which game. If England are on ITV we watch ITV, if they are on BBC we spend the afternoon with Des and the splendidly affable trio of Hansen, Gullit and Hill. So far, so unsurprising.

Figures show the television audience growing with England's progress through the tournament — nine million for England v Switzerland on ITV, 11 million for England v Scotland on BBC and 14.7 million for England v Holland on TV.

Provisional overnight figures for Saturday's quarter-final between England and Spain gave the BBC an average audience of almost 15 million, which indicates that audience growth may be beginning to slow. Optimists, however, will take comfort from the fact that a peak audience of almost 18 million watched the penalty shoot-out, a figure the BBC claims is the second highest for a football match. But come Wednesday and the semi-finals, the television game changes. With both ITV and BBC showing both semi-finals live, it makes your mind up time — just as it will be for Sunday's final.

The BBC will be brimming with confidence, partly because its always does well when sport becomes a "national occasion" and partly because its coverage and, in particular, its studio panel have been so warmly received. That said, ITV has made big improvements over the past two weeks. You can question John Barnes's dress sense until someone scores a golden goal, but you can't dispute the quality of a panel that includes Kevin Keegan and Alex Ferguson, as it did on Saturday, or one that teams Ferguson with Glenn Hoddle, as it did yesterday. If ITV Sport could get an extra five minutes for chat at

either end of the game, then the BBC could really be given a run for the money it spent on Rund Gullit.

The BBC has been quick to realise that "time" is its greatest asset. On Saturday, as he did for England against Scotland, Lynn handed over to the match commentators a full 20 minutes before kick-off in a move designed to allow those of us at home to share in the increasingly extraordinary Wembley atmosphere. But once again you longed for a commentator who appreciated the sound of silence.

By his own standards, Barry Davies was positively restrained but his words added next to nothing. If England do make it to Sunday, Niall Sloane, who has masterminded the BBC's coverage, should leave John Motson in no doubt — we want ten minutes of very noisy, very exciting "silence".

A fortnight ago, Brian Moore took a lot of criticism for his blatantly partisan commentary on England versus Switzerland. Davies did a rather better job of disguising his true sentiments with some thorough research about the Spanish team. Or he did, at least until the first of Spain's disallowed goals. "Don't worry," shouted Davies. "It's offside. However, I see nothing wrong in the gently partisan approach of either commentator. Television is about entertainment, not some dry, academic exercise in absolute impartiality.

But having said that, one or two replays may cause Davies concern if he ever catches up with a videotape of Saturday's game. "That is cheating," he exclaimed authoritatively, as Alfonso went sprawling. "That looks awfully like a penalty." We all thought as we watched the replay of Gascoigne's challenge. Significantly, Trevor Brooking, who had an excellent game alongside Davies, said nothing.

Maranta repeats winning formula

BARRY MARANTA resembles a lecturer in social sciences about as much as Martin Offiah resembles a ballet dancer. But the Australian owner of the southern outpost of rugby league, the London Broncos, started his career teaching at the University of Queensland and made his first fortune writing school textbooks on sociology and modern history.

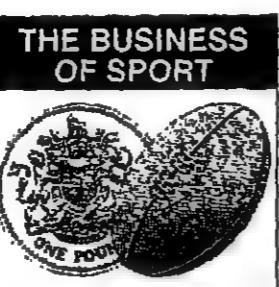
A study of either might have put him off the idea of trying to sell an avowedly northern game to a southern audience. But, having ploughed £1.5 million into the club since taking it over sixteen months ago, the man who made the Brisbane Broncos one of Australia's most successful clubs is convinced he is on to a winner.

"We didn't come over here to flush money down the toilet," Maranta explained, colourfully. "We expect it to bubble back up."

In 1987 Maranta led a consortium to bid for the first rugby league franchise in Queensland. Despite predictions it would not work, the Brisbane Broncos became a success on and off the field, winning the Australian championship in 1992 and attracting an average gate of over 43,000. Maranta has now sold out, netting A\$15 million (£7.7 million) in the process.

The Brisbane formula is now being tried in London. It involves marketing the sport strongly to a female and family audience. There are day long events, entertainers, good amenities, pre-match games involving junior teams and the sort of razzmatazz usually associated with American football.

Translating this to the UK is not quite as easy. The first problem was finding a decent venue for the Broncos. Shortly after taking control of the team — then called the Crusaders — he negotiated a deal with Harlequins to play at The Stoop in west London. Maranta's views on the amenities at The Stoop — or lack of them — are not complimentary or printable. The current season's games are being played at Charlton Athletic's recently rebuilt ground at The



Valley in southeast London.

On the entertainment front so far this season Broncos' games have been preceded by performers as diverse as Kylie Minogue, Willie Nelson, Harry Connick Jr and the Bay City Rollers.

Then there is marketing.

Maranta is convinced he can

make rugby league a fashionable sport.

Finally, there is the weather.

Here the move to make

rugby league a summer sport

is crucial. Maranta argues

that to have five or six hours

of entertainment around a

game, you have to have nice

weather. "If we were still

playing in winter, I would not

be interested," he says.

So how is it going in this,

the first summer season? The

first game, against Paris

Saint-Germain, was a roaring

success, attracting 9,500. The

next two, against Workington

and Oldham, had reasonable

crowds of 4,200 and 4,500

respectively. However, only

3,500 turned up to see the

Broncos destroyed by Halifax

Blue Sox two weeks ago.

Maranta is hoping for a

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But the key will be the

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"DAZZLING TEAMWORK FROM CAGE AND CONNERY"

SEAN NICOLAS ED CAGE HARRIS

DOUG COOPER JOHN GOODMAN LEE CHILDRESS

ROBERT DUVALL DENNIS HOPPER

MARK MCKEON ROBERT DUVALL

ROBERT DUVALL ROBERT DUVALL

RO

rewarded
return to
labour

ATHLETICS

Hopes of O'Brien and Johnson gone with Atlanta wind

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN ATLANTA

THE anticipation was missing in the stadium announcer's voice as he set the scene for the decathlon climax. "Dan O'Brien has a world record score for nine events," he said, all matter-of-fact. He may have suspected, like everybody else who had studied O'Brien, what was coming next.

The 1,500 metres, the last of the decathlon's ten disciplines, has become O'Brien's traditional penalty shoot-out and one that he normally loses. On Saturday, again, in the United States Olympic trials, he was Stuart Pearce Italia '90 rather than Pearce Euro '96.

On at least two previous occasions, listless 1,500 metres has cost O'Brien a world record. This time he did not just look frightened of the ball but closed his eyes to it. He was nine points ahead of record schedule, needing a 1,500 metres in 4min 43.64sec to improve the record he has held since 1992, when, with 8.89 points, he added 44 points to Daley Thompson's mark.

O'Brien, three times the world champion, has run 4min 33.19sec in a decathlon, but here sauntered round in 5min 12.01sec. Even on the first lap, when he might have been expected to test his reserves, he looked not at all interested in putting himself out.

He denied this at first,

saying that "absolutely" he had gone into the last event determined to break the record. However, a few minutes later he changed his tune. "For me to make a more positive effort I need to do more things in practice," O'Brien added. When, though?

As long ago as 1991, when, at the world championships, he missed Thompson's record because of a low-scoring 1,500 metres, he was promising to take the event seriously and "really work at it". But he has yet to fulfil that promise.

Results 40

There were, arguably, mitigating circumstances here: a decathlon spanning 29 hours, rather than the 36 he will have for the Olympics, the last event held under late-afternoon sun rather than in the evening. "My good 1,500s have come in the evenings, when it was cooler," O'Brien said. "I can see myself trying to push myself in the games." With a 9pm finish he should feel more comfortable.

At various stages of his life, O'Brien has had to deal with being an adopted child, a heavy drinker, a regular pot-smoker and being hyperactive, requiring medication for a condition known as attention deficit disorder. Yet he has not been able to overcome his fear of the 1,500 metres.

As he built up a fabulous score, highlighted by a 400 metres in 46.81sec and a 65.22 metre javelin throw, one recalled his comments from two days before the decathlon started: "I try not to think about the 1,500 metres. My mistake in the past has been that I think about the 1,500 from the minute I start the 100 metres until I get there and I get this nervous tension building up."

For seven events, O'Brien trai

ned Chris Huffins. And so to the pole vault, the eighth event, which any student of Olympic commercial history will have some knowledge of. Reebok mounted a \$25 million (about £16 million) television and print advertising campaign based on "Dan and Dave", a hyped up argument over whether O'Brien or Dave Johnson, another American, was the best athlete in the world in 1992. "To be settled in Barcelona," ran the theme.

The campaign crashed

when O'Brien failed to clear a height in the pole vault at the trials and did not make the Olympic team. His response was to go out three months later and, with one of his better 1,500 metres, in 4min 42.10sec, break the world record. There will be no delayed Dan versus Dave this year. While O'Brien won with 8.726 points, Johnson, third in Barcelona, was sixth with 8.189, failing to make the team.

O'Brien's vault of 5.20 metres here saw him over a psychological barrier and gave him the lead. Not that Huffins, who had led from the first event, was surprised to have been overtaken. "If you keep messing with the dragon, after a while he is going to wake up," Huffins said. Pity that sleep called again in the 1,500 metres.

O'Brien's apparent ambivalence towards the world record was in contrast to Michael Johnson's elation at setting one. Or at least he thought he had. Johnson celebrated long, even gave a television interview, before realising that his 19.70sec 200 metres - 0.02sec inside Pietro Mennea's set 17 years ago - was gone with the following wind in Scarlatti's home town.

The American coach, Justin Moore, has no such problems

edged out by the eventual winners, St Paul's, of the United States, in a record-breaking semi-final, and a hat-trick of overseas victories was completed by Dublin University in the College Fours.

British crews held off challenges from 13 other overseas boats in the other 15 events, exhibiting a continued escalation in the standard of women's club and college rowing, not least at Nottingham University, where five years of

coaching by Adrian Roberts, a former England international, saw an even bigger cushion in their final, but still clocked the fastest time of the day.

Somerville, rowing in the College Eights, were beaten in the quarter-final by Nottingham University, the eventual winners

Dublin success secures Henley first

BY MIKE ROSEWELL

IRISH eyes were smiling at Henley yesterday when University College, Dublin, took the premier eights trophy abroad for the first time since 1989 in the ninth Henley Women's Regatta, holding off Dave Johnson, another American, who was the best athlete in the world in 1992. "To be settled in Barcelona," ran the theme.

The campaign crashed when O'Brien failed to clear a height in the pole vault at the trials and did not make the Olympic team. His response was to go out three months later and, with one of his better 1,500 metres, in 4min 42.10sec, break the world record. There will be no delayed Dan versus Dave this year. While O'Brien won with 8.726 points, Johnson, third in Barcelona, was sixth with 8.189, failing to make the team.

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RACING: DERBY WINNER CLEARED TO RENEW RIVALRY WITH DUSHYANTOR IN IRISH CLASSIC

Shaamit 6-4 for Curragh showdown

By JULIAN MUSCAT

ON THE day William Haggas confirmed that Shaamit would be supplemented to Sunday's Budweiser Irish Derby at the Curragh, Ladbrokes installed the Epsom Derby winner as 6-4 favourite to confirm himself the leading middle-distance three-year-old in Europe.

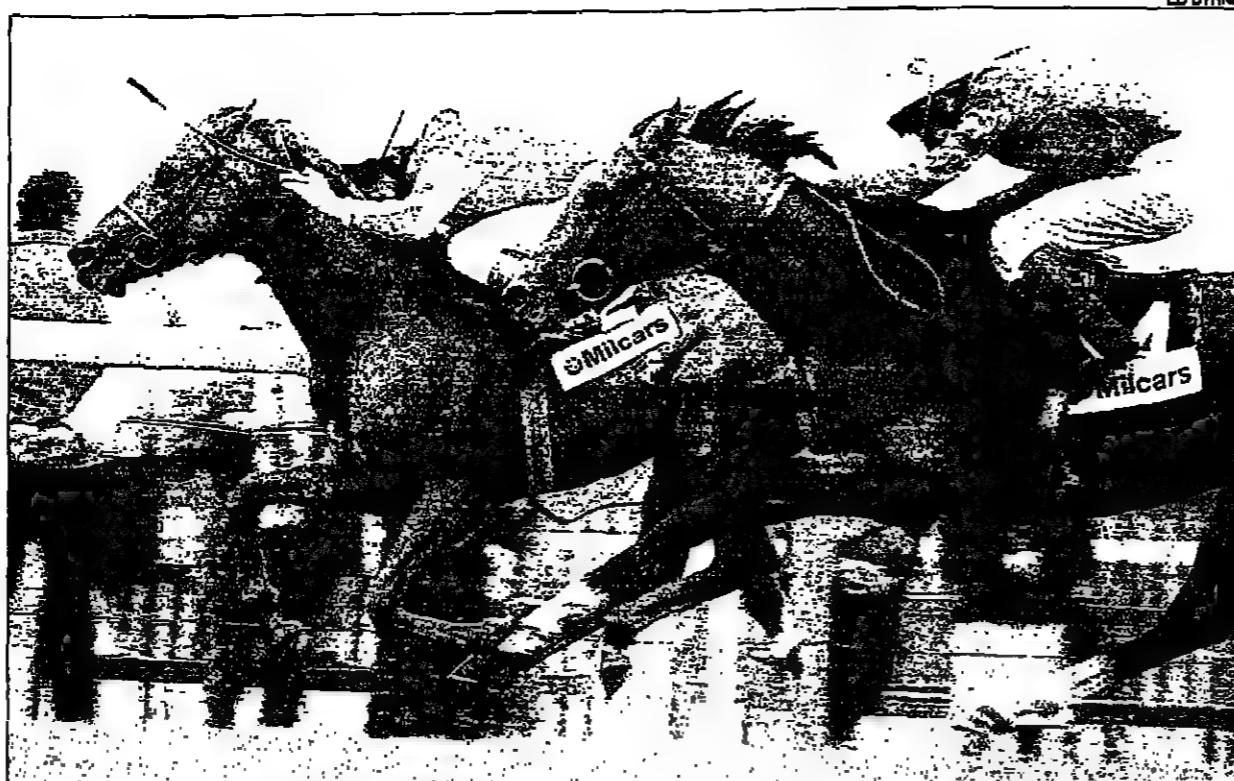
Haggas, who trains the son of Mito, received the encouragement he needed when Shaamit exuded good health in a gentle workout at Newmarket on Saturday. And

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: AQUADO
(4.45 Nottingham)
Next best: Samson
(7.00 Windsor)

bookmakers expect the horse to confirm his Epsom defeat of Dushyantor, who disputes second favouritism, at 3-1, with the Michael Stoute-trained Dr Massini.

A strong British raid is growing for the £160,000 contest. Among those in line for the 12-furlong classic is Alhaarth, the Derby fifth, who will almost certainly be tried in blinkers. Other British challengers include Polaris Flight, Amforas and Sharaf Kabir, whose connections, like those of Shaamit, will pay £16,000 to supplement the colt.



The St Leger hope Astor Place, right, finishes strongly to master Achärne close home at Ascot on Saturday

Haggas intends to give Shaamit another gentle breeze on Newmarket Heath tomorrow. "The horse is very fit and he doesn't need to prove to us how good he is on the gallops any more," the trainer said. "No group one race is easy, let alone the Irish Derby, but we are entitled to believe he is the best horse."

Interestingly, Sunday's contest may represent the last chance for 12-furlong specialists to take Shaamit's prized scalp. Haggas said: "I am desperate to drop the horse back to ten furlongs, which we will do later in the year. Assuming all goes well in Ireland, I wouldn't be that keen to go for the King George

V and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes. Obviously it would be the owner's decision. And the Newmarket handler plans to make the point on Sunday. "I am hopeful Dushyantor might turn the tables on a more galloping track and with a clearer run," Cecil said.

Dr Massini, forced out of the Derby at the eleventh hour, is expected to be ridden fast." Crisford said.

□ Paul Kelleway's Glory Of Weld has first claim on the jockey but is thought unlikely to be represented. Dr Massini demonstrated he had recovered from the foot injury that scuppered his Epsom participation by pleasing connections in his work on Saturday.

Dick Hern

Alhaarth

Polaris Flight

Shaamit

Dushyantor

Haggas

Crisford

Massini

Kelleway

Astor Place

Hern

Kelleway

Achärne

Hern

Kelleway

Lambourn

Hern

Kelleway

Preston

Hern

Kelleway

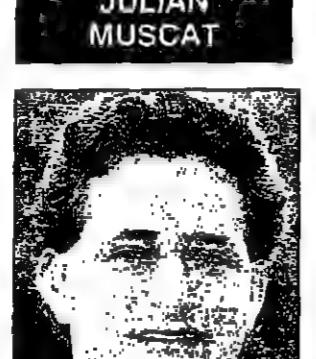
Trotter

Hern

Kelleway

Home produce gives Watsons three firsts at Ascot show

JULIAN MUSCAT



Racing Commentary

If Royal Ascot is the High Street of British racing, entitled like Mick Kinane and Godolphin are the biggest department stores on the patch. It was business as usual for the Irishman and Sheikh Mohammed, but a sweep of the less fashionable shops identified where the honours really rested.

Step forward Richard and Tessa Watson, leading breeders at Royal Ascot after the exploits of Atrial. Emerging Market and Yeast. In 25 years of small-scale thoroughbred production they had never breached the gates protecting the winner's circle. Last week they did it three times — on three different days. Only the Queen's carriages on their daily procession more frequently visited this coveted enclosure.

Central to the Watsons' glorious week was their faith in the stallion, Clantime. They bred the horse, an honest sprinter who amassed over £83,000 a decade ago without ever winning in Parnell class.

Clantime's grandmother, Midnight Dollar, was the first mare they owned. She was a useless runner, acquired in exchange for a hunter, and has justified herself a hundred times over. Atrial, winner of the Cork and Orrery Stakes on Thursday, is by Clantime. Politicians would describe it as a triumph for family values.

This rare achievement adds another strand to the Turf's romantic tapestry. Of

the sporting pursuits requiring substantial investment none has a greater capacity to surprise. Irrespective of their upbringing, connoisseurs or price, a field of unraced two-year-olds are rendered equal by the start-trigger.

In a similar vein, the colour of blood cannot be enriched by money alone. The gates at Ascot do not merely divide winners from also-rans, they separate blue-bloods from the red. So raw was Clantime's blood that he was initially denied entry to the Stud Book which is racing's equivalent of the Royal Enclosure.

The sporting pursuit

of allowing Clantime the benefit of the doubt has been evident in the stallion's achievements. The wisdom in the Ascot Authority's relaxing of its militaristic grip on the fixture was evident in last week's record attendance.

It was Kinane, the leading jockey at Royal Ascot, who once memorably parried a barbed question with the sentiment that it was better to be born lucky than rich. The Watsons were born with both attributes, yet have recognised the former's virtues. A flurry of success once prompted them to indulge their mares with pricey stallions — to detrimental effect.

Some years ago they sold a yearling for 56,000 guineas, the highest price yet achieved by their Manor Farm Stud in Rutland. The horse eventually broke its duck in Jersey, so it was back to the tried and trusted. Both Atrial and Emerging Market are by stallions whose services might have been bartered down to £1,000 apiece.

The Watsons have now expanded their broodmare band to six and further additions are planned. Their son, Toby, is a first-season trainer; he will surely press his case for a share of the thoroughbred bounty. Meanwhile, the champagne remained on ice, pending delivery of a new-born filly which has required a constant vigil. There has been much to celebrate in their sleepless nights.

Julian Muscat

MUSSELBURGH

THUNDERER
2.00 Penny, 3.00 Miller Aspects, 3.30 Time To Tango, 4.00 Silver Hunter, 4.30 Perilous Flight, 5.00 Elektra Nella.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW SF, LOW BEST SIS

2.30 CRAIGLEATH CLAIMING STAKES

(2-Y-O, SF, 553-56) (6 runners)

2-04 BACK IN THE USSR 12 (G) 1st Johnstone 3-12.

2-05 JUST FOUR 23 (D) 1st G M Turner 8-12.

1-52 FONZY 12 (M) 1st Mrs Lister 8-12.

2-03 FAL 100% REARITY 21 (G) 1st Mrs B 8-6.

5-6 CHILDREN MARK 25 (R) 1st McElroy 7-11.

Elec. Back in the Usa, 4-1 Palfrey Aspects, 5-1 Just Lou Flyer, 6-1 Fortune 8-11.

Elec. Back in the Usa, 4-1 Palfrey Aspects, 5-1 Just Lou Flyer, 6-1 Fortune 8-11.

3.00 YVONNE MURRAY MBE HANDICAP

(EZ, 588; 1m 7f 1yds) (10)

1-04 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

2-05 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

3-03 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

4-02 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

5-01 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

6-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

7-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

8-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

9-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

10-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

11-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

12-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

13-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

14-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

15-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

16-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

17-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

18-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

19-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

20-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

21-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

22-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

23-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

24-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

25-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

26-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

27-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

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46-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

47-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

48-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

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53-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

54-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G M Turner 3-10.

55-00 VARIOUS PERIODS 10 (G) 1st Mrs G

Ourites

THE TIMES MONDAY JUNE 24 1996

SPORT

John Goodbody on one of the singular success stories of sport. Running is slimming and clears the mind.

Chasing the real 'feel-good' factor

It is one of the unsung success stories of British sport. On July 10, international athletes, keep-fit fanatics, unambitious joggers and people who just fancy a pleasant run in lovely surroundings will be pounding twice round Battersea Park, London, in the Chase Corporate Challenge.

The record entry of 8,000 on the sunlit evening of July 1995 seems likely to be surpassed, as almost 500 companies will field teams in an event that this year celebrates its 20th anniversary. Some companies will have just a handful of runners, others may try to outdo Morgan Stanley, which last year fielded 254 employees, a turnout which seemed to include everyone in the bank.

The idea of the Corporate Challenge began in 1977 in New York. The late Fred Lebow, the man who did so much to promote the American jogging boom, and the New York marathon in particular, persuaded Charles McCabe from Manufacturers Hanover Trust to back a race in Central Park. The length of the event was decided in an unusual way. Lebow and McCabe measured the distance they had walked while discussing the idea. It was 3½ miles and this has developed as the standard course round the world.

The event attracts young and old, male and female. It is a festival of fitness and the wide range of categories has meant that companies can challenge rivals in related areas of business and commerce.

For some people, such as John Mayo, of Zeneca Group plc, the Corporate Challenge gives a focus to his thrice-weekly running sessions and is also "just a lot of enjoyment. It is half way between a fun-run and a really serious race. It is also good for our company. In fact half of the people in our head office take part."

As the finance director of the



pharmaceutical and agro-chemical company, he finds he needs regular running to clear his head before a day's work. Often, he says, he will have "sorted out" two or three problems in his mind while out exercising.

John says that he feels "more energised" on the days when business allows him to take time out for an early morning session in Hyde Park. "I just wish I had started running when I was 25. During my early thirties, like many people, the work load increased and I got out of the habit of exercising."

Now 40, he has lost 20 pounds over the past three years and is now down to 11 stone 7lbs. "I have a reasonably disciplined approach to running — that and a wonderful secretary who limits breakfast meetings to Tuesdays and Thursdays, which are my non-running days. When I am abroad on business, I always take my kit and can do my sightseeing on the run early in the morning. It is not a religion. It is a discipline."

He says: "I do not find that my appetite is any the less when I am running, although I find it quite easy to go through lunchtime after an early-morning session. Most of the time I eat what I want

to and I certainly don't eat tiny meals."

Another competitor who originally began exercising to lose weight is Jackie Coulson, a part-time clerk with Barclaycard in Northampton. She astonished herself last year by not only being a member of the Barclays Bank team, which won the women's team event, but also by being the second woman home in the Chemical Bank Corporate Challenge in New York.

This year, with the merger of Chemical Banking Corporation and the Chase Manhattan Corporation, the final will have even greater status and will take place in New York on October 5. The men's, women's and mixed teams who have done best in the London race will be invited to participate in New York. So will the top teams from the other 14 cities which are staging the marathon this year, bringing the total number of participants to 131,000.

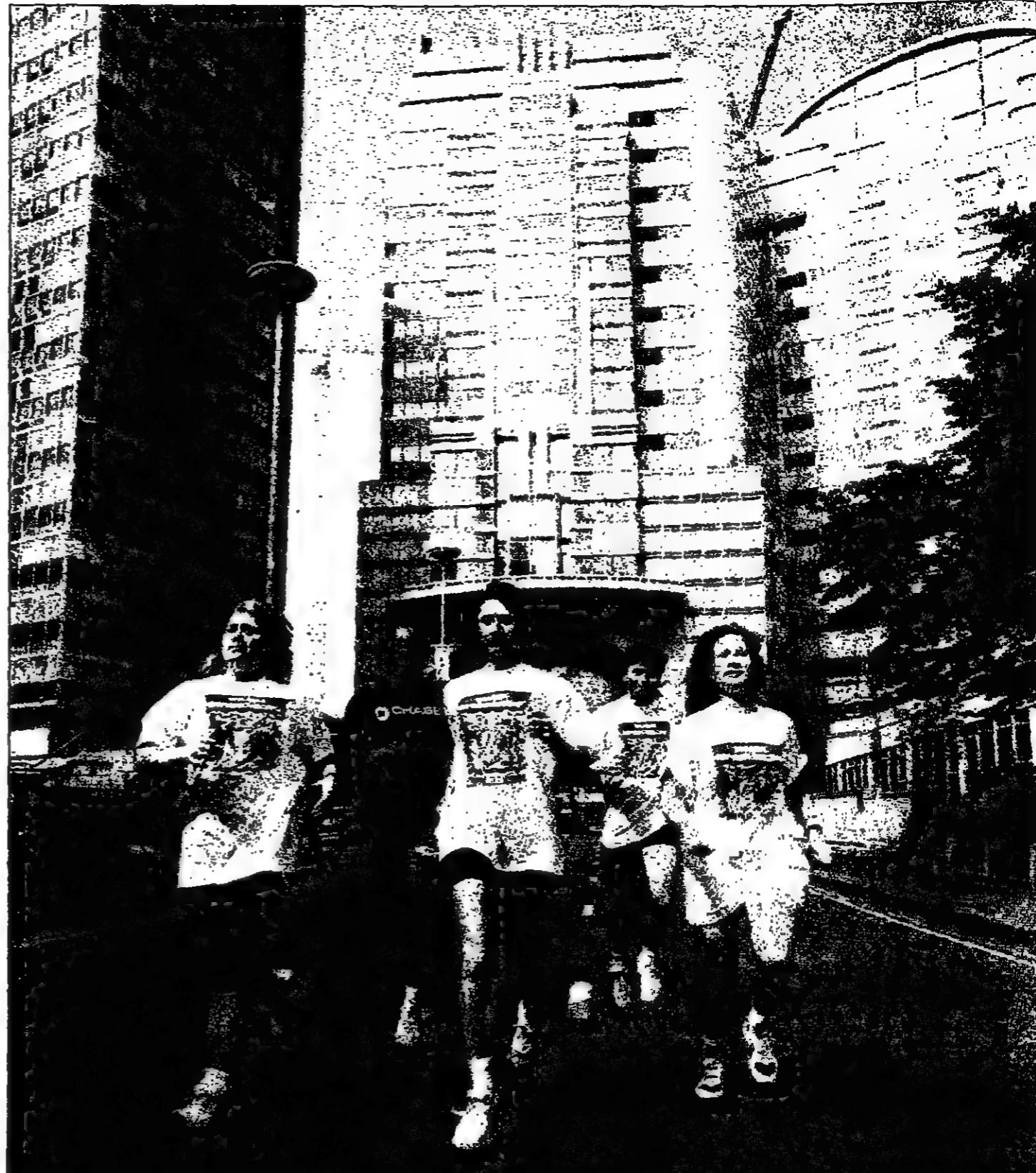
Jackie, 34, began running eight years ago because she had put on weight after having the first two of her three children. She had sprinted as a teenager, "but after leaving school, I never did any more sport. When there is a chance not to do something, you don't do it."

She originally thought about trying aerobic classes. "But we were a bit pushed for cash at the time and so running was cheaper." When she started entering races, she surprised herself on just how well she did. "When you are on your own, you never think you are that good."

She often trains twice a day, beginning every morning with a one-hour jog, while her husband, Richard, gets the children's breakfast ("He is excellent, I could not do anything without him") before leaving for his job as an engineer. The children are then ferried to school or to a childminder. The logistics are exhausting before the working day has even begun.

She has a further session most days, sometimes with Lita Hickey, a Barclays Bank team mate, and husband, Dave, who has encouraged her to develop her speedwork. She prefers longer distances, and finished the 1995 London Marathon in 2 hours 59 minutes.

Does she dislike getting up at 6am to run on freezing February mornings? "No, it doesn't bother me. What I dislike is the speedwork. I don't really warm up until I have done at least five miles. The 3½ miles in the Corporate Challenge is so explosive — you have just got to go for it."



Chase employees pounding the City streets in training for the Chase Corporate Challenge marathon in Battersea Park on July 10

COMPETING IN COMPANY

COMPANIES can enter an unlimited number of runners at all levels of ability. All runners note their own individual times at the finish and give their results to their company captain. Officials use closed-circuit TV to check all running times. Any falsification will lead to the company's disqualification.

The captains then study the running times and decide which runner will represent which company team. There are five men in a men's team, three

women in a women's team and two men and two women in a mixed team. Each runner may be placed in one team only.

Entry forms: contact London Marathon, 071-630 4117. Entries must be in by noon, July 1, 1996.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

In my column published on May 21 described a hand in which Howard Cohen made an early claim of a contract. The claim was entirely valid, but based on a far-seeing analysis of a squeeze ending. I made a jokey remark to the effect that it might have been better manners just to play it out. Unfortunately it came across as though I disapproved of the claim. Far from it — anyone you have a straightforward line it is polite to claim (or concede). The only point about the particular hand is that it might have been quicker to play it out, as explaining the claim was quite complicated.

Here is an example of a hand on which whether to concede would depend on the standard of the opposition.

♦A43	♦T653	♦J1098	N	♦A2	♦QJ	W	E	♦K10982	♦A878
♦K64	♦T542	♦A94	♦KQ32	♦KQJ108765	♦AK3	♦K	♦44		

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: King of clubs

South opens Four Spades and all pass. West leads the king of clubs, and continues with a low club to the ace, ruffed by South. South leads the king of spades to the ace. East switches to the jack of diamonds and West takes the ace and attempts to cash a second round, but South ruffs.

In a good-quality game it would be bad manners for South to play any more cards. He should just concede one off. This is because both defenders know declarer has no more cards in either minor, so obviously they will keep hearts — playing off the trumps to come down to A K 3 of hearts does nothing but waste time. But it's more problematic in a weaker game — the defenders may not have

taken the point about the hearts and so an unwary West may discard one on the run of the spades. So I suppose under those circumstances it is reasonable to play it out.

By the way, the correct procedure in making a claim is to lay down your hand, state clearly your line of play, and wait for the defenders to agree. Some top tournament players forget that last part — they briefly flash their cards at the opponents and put them back in the board, and then express scorn when asked to show them again. That certainly is bad manners.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- ADIPSON
- a. The letter D
- b. A drink
- c. To the same thing

- BASHAW
- a. A dead leaf
- b. A Turkish nob
- c. A Shavian scholar

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This week I will be concentrating on endings by Anatoly Karpov, the defending Fide champion and chess master. Last month I wrote about the Fide world championship started on June 6. While to play. This position is from the game Karpov — Short, Candidates, Linares 1995. The position is a pawn ahead in this position, but the endgame material could make it difficult for him to realise his advantages. However, he solved this problem differently with a tactical stroke. How did he capture?

Solution on page 46

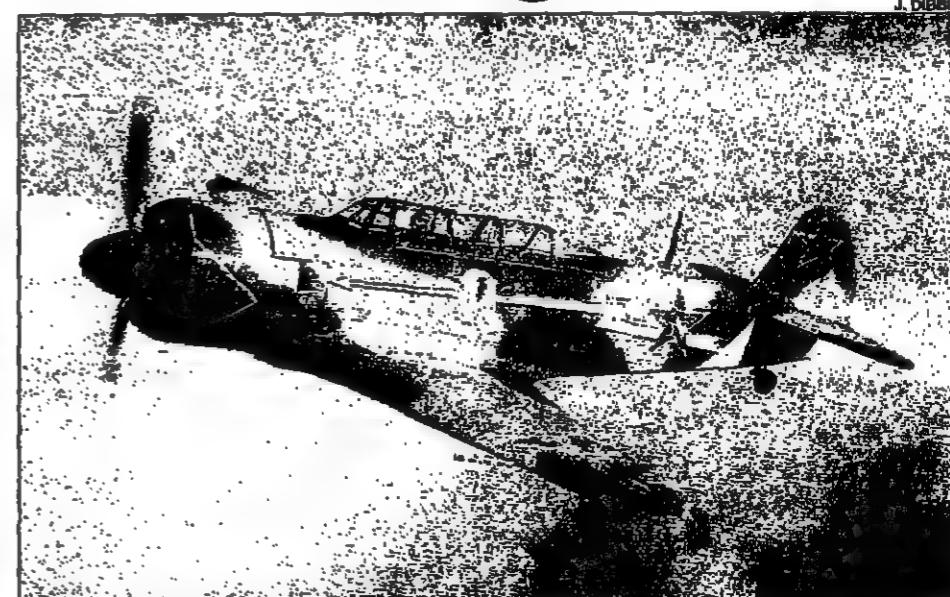
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Solution on page 46

How I flew a half-Cuban in a Soviet fighter



A Yakovlev II Soviet fighter owned by Mark Jefferies, the 1994 British aerobatic champion

An air show next month will open up flying to all

More than 1,200 pilots from all over Britain will descend on an airfield near Bedford next month for an airshow which enthusiasts hope will help aviation to shrug off its image as a preserve of the rich.

The Popular Flying Association's fifth anniversary rally at Cranfield is expected to draw crowds of more than 25,000 to watch vintage, home-made and modern aircraft swarm onto the airfield. Among the 30 or so aerobatic pilots who will perform displays at the show will be Mark Jefferies, the British aerobatic champion of 1994.

When Jefferies flies, the rules — and his late 1940s Yakovlev II Soviet fighter — are turned on their heads.

Last month he became the first Westerner to take part in an airshow at a Soviet-era military base in the former East Germany. As we approached the airfield at Wriezen, near the German-Polish border, he climbed to 5,000ft and then swung the Yak's nose at the ground. At about 30ft from the deck he pulled straight and level, sweeping past at more than 330 knots the people waiting to welcome him. He then did two tight rolls and soared skyward to twist his way through a manoeuvre called a half-Cuban.

"I just strap the aeroplane to myself and point it where I want to go," he says. His wife, Cathy, has no fears for his safety, he says, though he feels a "twinge of awareness" now that he has his one-year-old daughter, Jasmine. To think about "I also get worried when someone experienced has an accident," he adds.

When Jefferies flew to Germany he took me along for the ride to gain a taste of the topsy-turvy world of aerobatics. His unorthodox air-

field approaches have the blessing of air traffic controllers. As the 1994 champion he was fined en route by being asked to perform a low pass at Calais. And at Munster-Ostbrück, where we refuelled, the controllers waved excitedly, then waived their landing fee in exchange for a glimpse of his skills on the way out.

Jefferies, who imports Yaks from the former Soviet Union, restores them at his home in Little Gransden, Cambridgeshire, then sells them to enthusiasts. On this journey he climbed to 5,000ft and then swung the Yak's nose at the ground. At about 30ft from the deck he pulled straight and level, sweeping past at more than 330 knots the people waiting to welcome him. He then did two tight rolls and soared skyward to twist his way through a manoeuvre called a half-Cuban.

"I just strap the aeroplane to myself and point it where I want to go," he says. His wife, Cathy, has no fears for his safety, he says, though he feels a "twinge of awareness" now that he has his one-year-old daughter, Jasmine. To think about "I also get worried when someone experienced has an accident," he adds.

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It was a surprise to find the reality far gentler. When Jefferies swung into a mini routine, earth and sky lost their customary stability but the aircraft felt as if it was barely moving. It was the horizon which suddenly became drunk, lurching ludicrously above, behind and sideways.

It is hoped that such gravity-defying exploits will be particularly inspiring to children at the Cranfield airshow which takes place from Friday, July 5 to Sunday, July 7.

The PFA runs the British arm of an American-led campaign to give one million children up to the age of 16 a chance to fly in a light aircraft by the year 2003 — the 100th anniversary of the Wright Brothers' first powered flight. The Young Eagles Scheme involves volunteer pilots offering flights on a first-come, first-served basis.

EVE-ANN PRENTICE

Law Report June 24 1996 House of Lords

Valuers not liable for risk of default by borrowers

South Australia Asset Management Corporation v York Montague Ltd

United Bank of Kuwait plc v Prudential Property Services Ltd Nykredit Mortgage Bank Ltd v Edward Erdman Group Ltd

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley; Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle; Lord Slynn of Hadley; Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead and Lord Hoffmann [Speeches June 20]

Where valuers had been negligent or in breach of duty in valuing properties on which lenders had advanced money on mortgage, and between the date of valuation and the dates on which borrowers had subsequently defaulted the market had fallen substantially, the valuers were liable to the lenders not for all the consequences of the course of action taken by the lenders but only for the foreseeable consequences of the information they had given being wrong.

The House of Lords held when:

- (i) dismissing an appeal by the defendants, Prudential Property Services Ltd, and Edward Erdman Group Ltd, from the Court of Appeal [Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Rose and Lord Justice Morris] (*The Times* February 21, 1995; [1995] QB 375), who had dismissed their appeals from Mr Justice Gage and Judge Byrr, QC, respectively;
- (ii) allowing appeals by the defendants, Prudential Property Services Ltd, and Edward Erdman Group Ltd, from the Court of Appeal [Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Rose and Lord Justice Morris] (*The Times* February 21, 1995; [1995] QB 375), who had dismissed their appeals from Mr Justice Gage and Judge Byrr, QC, respectively;
- (iii) giving judgment for the plaintiffs, United Bank of Kuwait plc, for damages to be assessed, and Judge

LORD HOFFMANN said that the case had two common features. First, if the lender had known the true value of the property he would not have lent. Second, a fall in the property market after the date of valuation had greatly increased the loss that the lender had eventually suffered.

The Court of Appeal had decided that in a case in which the lender would not otherwise have lent he was entitled to recover the difference between the sum that he had lent, together with a reasonable rate of interest, and the sum that he had actually got back.

The valuer bore the risk of a transaction which, but for his negligence, would not have happened. He was therefore liable for all the loss attributable to a fall in the market.

The lenders sued under contracts which the valuers, in return for a fee, undertook to provide them with

certain information. In each case, the valuer had been required to provide an estimate of the price that the property might reasonably be expected to fetch in the open market at the date of the valuation.

The purpose for which that information had been provided was to form part of the material on which the lender was to decide whether, and so how much,

for the consequences of the information being inaccurate.

The difference between the ordinary principle and that adopted by the Court of Appeal can be illustrated by an example. A mountaineer who takes a difficult climb was concerned about the fitness of his knee. He went to a doctor who negligently pronounced it fit. The climber went on the expedition, which he would not have done if the doctor had told him the true state of his knee. He suffered an injury that was an entirely foreseeable consequence of mountaineering but had nothing to do with the doctor's figure and so on.

The valuer would know that, if he overestimated the value, the lender's margin for those purposes would be correspondingly less. On the other hand, the valuer would not ordinarily be privy to the other considerations that the lender might take into account, such as how much money might be available, how much the borrower needed to borrow, the strength of his covenant, the attraction of the rate of interest, or the other personal or commercial considerations that might induce the lender to lend.

There was no reason in principle why the law should not penalise wrongful conduct by shifting on to the wrongdoer the whole risk of consequences that would have happened but for the wrongful act, but that was not the normal rule. Rules that made him liable for all the consequences of his wrongful conduct were exceptional and needed to be justified by some special policy.

Normally the law limited liability to those consequences that were attributable to that which had made the act wrongful. In the case of liability in negligence for providing inaccurate information, that would mean liability

if negligent, not generally regarded as responsible for all the consequences of that course of action. He was responsible for the consequences of the information being inaccurate.

A duty of care imposed on the information responsibility for losses that would have occurred even if the information had been correct was not fair and reasonable as between parties. It was therefore inappropriate either as an implied term of a contract or as a tortious duty arising from the relationship between them.

The principle distinguished between a duty to provide information for the purpose of enabling someone else to decide on a course of action and a duty to advise someone as to what course of action he should take.

In the latter case, the adviser had to take reasonable care to consider all the potential consequences of that course of action, and if he was negligent he would be responsible for all the foreseeable loss that was a consequence of that course of action being taken.

The principle was implicit in the decision of the House of Lords in *Banque Keyser Ullmann SA v Alastair Gibson [1991] 2 AC 249*.

The measure of damages in an action for breach of a duty to take care to provide accurate information had also to be distinguished from that for breach of a warranty that the information was accurate.

In the case of breach of a duty of care, the measure of damages was the loss attributable to the inaccuracy of the information that the plaintiff had suffered by reason of having entered into the transaction on the assumption that the information was correct.

The principle was that a person under a duty to take reasonable care to provide information on which someone else would decide on a course of action was

what element of that loss was attributable to the inaccuracy of the information.

In the case of a warranty, one considers the plaintiff's position as a result of entering into the transaction with what it would have been if the information had been accurate.

Both measures were concerned with the consequences of the inaccuracy of the information, but the tort measure was the extent to which the plaintiff was worse off because the information was wrong whereas the warranty measure was the extent to which he would have been better off if the information had been right.

That distinction has been the basis of the decision of the House of Lords in *Swingate Ltd v Alastair Gibson [1991] 2 AC 223*.

In the *South Australia* case the lenders on August 3, 1990 had advanced £1 million on a property valued at £15 million. The judge had found that the actual value of the home had been £5 million. On August 5, 1994 the property had been sold for £2,477,000. The judge had quantified the loss at £9,751,927.60 and deducted 25 per cent for the plaintiff's contributory negligence.

The consequence of the valuation being wrong had been that the plaintiff had had £10 million less security than they had thought. If they had had that margin, they would have suffered no loss. The whole loss had therefore been within the scope of the defendant's duty. The appeal was dismissed.

In the *United Bank of Kuwait* case the lenders on October 19, 1990 had advanced £1.75 million on the security of a property valued by the defendants at £2.5 million. The judge had found that the correct value had been between £1.8 and £1.85 million. It had been sold in February 1992 for £950,000. The judge had quantified the loss, including un-

paid interest, at £1,209,000. In his Lordship's view the damages should have been limited to the consequences of the valuation being wrong, which had been that the lenders had had £700,000 or £600,000 less security than they had thought.

The plaintiffs said that the situation produced by the overvaluation was not merely that they had had less security but also that there had been a greater risk of default.

But the valuers had not been asked to advise on the risk of default, which would have depended on a number of matters outside their knowledge. The greater risk of default was not the only reason why the lenders had advanced £1.75 million. The judge had found that the bank had only another reason why the lenders, if they had known the true facts, would not have entered into the transaction, but that did not affect the scope of the valuers' duty. The appeal should be allowed and the damages reduced to the difference between the valuation and the correct value.

In the *Nykredit* case, the lenders on March 12, 1990 had advanced £2.45 million on the security of a property valued by the defendants at £3.5 million. The correct value had been said to be £2 million or at most £2.375 million.

The price obtained at auction in February 1993 had been £345,000. The judge had quantified the loss, including unpaid interest, at £3,055,553.32. The appeal should be allowed and a figure substituted equal to the difference between £3.5 million and the true value of the property at the date of valuation.

Lord Goff, Lord Jauncey, Lord Slynn and Lord Nicholls agreed.

Solicitors: Rowe & Maw; Alcup Wilkinsons; Cameron Murkby Hewitt; Clifford Chance; Williams Davies Melzer; Clifford Chance.

Permitting witness to refresh memory

Rogers v South Ribble Stipendiary Magistrate, Ex parte Coodehouse

Before Lord Justice Henry and Mrs Justice Elboworth [Judgment June 7]

There was no rigid rule of law which precluded a court in a criminal trial from exercising a broad discretion to permit a witness who had begun to give evidence to refresh his memory from non-contemporaneous witness statements which he had read before going into the witness box but had not digested.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, dismissing Judith Dawn Coodehouse's application to quash the decision of Mr Finestine, South Ribble stipendiary magistrate sitting at Leyland Magistrates' Court on March 6, 1995, to commit her to Preston Crown Court to stand trial on a charge of conspiring with others to pervert the course of justice.

In the course of the committal

proceedings on March 1, 1995, the prosecution applied for a witness to be allowed to refresh his memory, in respect of events which had occurred 18 months before, from three witness statements, the first of which had been made to the police approximately two weeks after the events in question.

The magistrate permitted the witness to refresh his memory from the statements even though the witness had already had 10 to 15 minutes reading them before going into the witness box to give evidence.

Mr Kevin Tulbot and Mr Brian Jackson, solicitor, for the applicant: Mr Paul C. Reid for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE HENRY said that it was submitted for the applicant that the magistrate had no discretion to allow the witness's memory to be refreshed from the statements once it was established that the third of the four criteria laid down in *R v Da Silva* ([1990]

40 Cr App R 233, 239) had not been complied with, namely, that the witness had not read the statement before coming into the witness box.

Mr Tulbot submitted that *Da Silva* laid down a rigid principle of law governing, in all cases, the situation where a witness asked to refresh his memory from a non-contemporaneous document.

But the court in that case was not saying as a matter of law that once a witness entered the witness box he could only refer to a previous non-contemporaneous statement if all four criteria therein set out were satisfied.

The court were saying that a trial judge could permit a witness who had begun to give evidence to refresh his memory even if the document was not contemporaneous.

There was no logical difference between a witness reading a statement before giving evidence but not taking its contents, and one who did not read it at all.

The court had a real discretion, a

strong discretion, free from rigid binding rules of law, whether to permit a witness to refresh his memory from a non-contemporaneous document.

In exercising that discretion trial judges could be relied upon to follow the twin lodestones of the requirements of fairness and the requirements of justice.

Where the criteria laid down in *Da Silva* existed, a judge could be confident that it was open to him to permit the witness to refresh his memory. But he was not bound in all circumstances to forbid such refreshing of memory if the criteria were not met.

In the present case the magistrate had a strong discretion, he directed himself properly according to law and reached a conclusion which he was entitled to.

Mrs Justice Elboworth agreed.

Solicitors: Norton & Co, Liverpool Crown Prosecution Service, Preston.

Public inquiry should have been held

Rogers v Secretary of State for Wales, Ex parte Emery

Before Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC [Judgment June 4]

Although the secretary of state was empowered to reach a decision on whether to exercise his appellate powers under paragraph 4 of Schedule 14 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 on documentary evidence alone, a public inquiry should have been held where there was substantial conflict of such evidence on whether a right of way had been established in order to allow the evidence to be tested.

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so stated when granting an application by Mr Gordon Emery, a member of the Ramblers Association, for judicial review of the decision of the Secretary of State for Wales not to direct Clwyd County Council to modify the definitive map of its area to show an alleged public right of way.

In the present case the magistrate had a strong discretion, he directed himself properly according to law and reached a conclusion which he was entitled to.

On appeal against the original decision of the council that the documentary evidence, which was conflicting, was insufficient to prove dedication of the claimed path, the secretary of state found that, although the weight of evidential statements showed that the path had been used by the public for walking, access and many other outdoor activities for the period stated, in the genuine belief that their unchallenged use meant unchallengeable dedication as a public right of way, the unequivocal statement

by the former owner denying any intention to dedicate provided sufficient evidence to deduce provided sufficient evidence in the terms of section 31 of the Highways Act 1980 to rebut the presumption of a right of way raised by usage.

His Lordship said that the issue focused on the administrative procedures to be deployed when evidence of an alleged public right of way was raised by usage. Accordingly he dismissed the appeal and declined to exercise his power under Schedule 14 of the 1981 Act.

His Lordship accepted that that decision was fully and correctly reached within the statutory framework, its only potential fault, notwithstanding to *Wednesday Unreasonableness* ([1948] 1 KB 223) lay in the approach to the problem whether there was such a conflict of documentary evidence that that ought to have been orally tested at a public inquiry.

While recognising that the court could not interfere with the exercise of an administrative decision on substantive grounds, even where the decision was manifestly unreasonable, his Lordship decided that it could interfere where the administrative problem focused on procedural safeguards,

particularly where the decision affected the rights, interests and legitimate expectations of the individual. It would depend on what the duty to act fairly required in the circumstances.

Here, applying the formula for testing the requirement of fairness set out in *R v Secretary of State for Home Affairs, Ex parte Doodly* ([1994] AC 531, 560), there appeared to be an imbalance in the procedural provisions in Schedules 14 and 15 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, with a weighting in favour of private rights at the investigative stage of rival claims.

By operating the statutory procedure strictly in the manner envisaged by Parliament without due regard to the peculiar facts of the case and in not calling for a public inquiry, the secretary of state could be deemed to have acted unfairly and accordingly the decision would be quashed.

Solicitors: Brooke North & Goodwin, Leeds; Treasury Solicitor.

Strasbourg

Human Rights Law Report

Breach in denial of free legal assistance to poll tax defaulter

Benham v United Kingdom

[Case No T/1995/515/597]

Before R. Ryssdal, President, and Judges R. Bernhardt, Thör Vilhjálmsson, F. Gölcükli, F. Maischer, B. Walsh, R. Macdonald, D. De Meyer, E. Palm, I. Fuighe, R. Peikkanen, A. N. Loizou, Sir John Freeland, A. B. Baka, M. A. Lopes Rocha, L. Wildhaber, G. Misud Bonnici, D. Gotchev, B. Repik, P. Jambrak and K. Jungwirth

Registrar H. Petzold

Deputy Registrar P. J. Mahoney

Judgment June 10

The denial of legal aid in a poll tax defaulter at a hearing before magistrates was a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights, but a sentence of detention passed on him was not.

The European Court of Human Rights held, by 17 votes to four, that there had been a violation of article 5(1) of the Convention in relation to the detention of Mr Stephen Benham by magistrates for non-payment of the community charge and that article 5(5), therefore, did not apply. However, the Court also held, unanimously, that the fact that he had not been entitled to legal aid before the hearing before the magistrates did constitute a violation of articles 6(1) and 6(3)(c) taken together.

Article 5(1) of the Convention provides: "1. Everybody has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be deprived of his liberty save in accordance with a procedure prescribed by law...".

(b) the lawful arrest or detention of a person for non-compliance with a lawful order of a court or in order to secure the fulfilment of any obligation prescribed by law...".

"5. Everyone who has been a victim of arrest or detention in contravention of the provisions of this article shall have an enforceable right to compensation."

Article 6(1) of the Convention provides: "1. In the determination of any criminal charge against him, everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal...".

On July 25, 1991 he appeared before Poole Magistrates' Court for an inquiry into his means and the reasons for his failure to pay, in accordance with the Community Charge (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations (SI 1989 No 438).

He had no legal assistance for the hearing, although he was eligible for Green Form legal advice and assistance prior to the

hearing and the justices could have ordered a solicitor to represent him before them under the assistance by way of representation scheme if they had thought it necessary.

The justices found that Mr Benham had no income or assets with which to pay the debt, but that he had nine 0% levels and had voluntarily left an employment in Scotland in March 1990.

They concluded that his failure to pay was due to his culpable neglect since he clearly had the potential to earn money, and they issued a warrant committing him to prison for 30 days. He was taken to Dorchester Prison and held for 11 days.

Mr Benham appealed to the Divisional Court. Bail was granted on April 5, 1991 and the appeal was heard on October 7 and 8, 1991. The court quashed the order for detention on the ground that there had been insufficient evidence before the justices to support their finding that Mr Benham's failure to pay the community charge was due to his culpable neglect: clear evidence that suitable employment was on offer to him would have been necessary.

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Market	Company	Price	Wkly %	Yld %	P/E
All Shares		52.3	-2	3.2	15.5
All Small Stocks		11.5	-11	5.4	17.5
All Shares	Alfa Romeo	66.2	-11	5.4	17.5
All Shares	Altaf	10.5	+1	5.4	17.5
All Shares	Alvarez	95.7	-7	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	100.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	105.2	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	110.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	115.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	120.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	125.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	130.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	135.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	140.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	145.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	150.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	155.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	160.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	165.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	170.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	175.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	180.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	185.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	190.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	195.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	200.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	205.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	210.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	215.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	220.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	225.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	230.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	235.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	240.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	245.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	250.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	255.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	260.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	265.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	270.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	275.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	280.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	285.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	290.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	295.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	300.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	305.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	310.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	315.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	320.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	325.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	330.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	335.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	340.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	345.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	350.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	355.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	360.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	365.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	370.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	375.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	380.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	385.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	390.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	395.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	400.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	405.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	410.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	415.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	420.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	425.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	430.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	435.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	440.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	445.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	450.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	455.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	460.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	465.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	470.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	475.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	480.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	485.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	490.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	495.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	500.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	505.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	510.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	515.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	520.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	525.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	530.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	535.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	540.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	545.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	550.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	555.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	560.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	565.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	570.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	575.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	580.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	585.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	590.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	595.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	600.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	605.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	610.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	615.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	620.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	625.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	630.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	635.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	640.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	645.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	650.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	655.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	660.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	665.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	670.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	675.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	680.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	685.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	690.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	695.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	700.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	705.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	710.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	715.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	720.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	725.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	730.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	735.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	740.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	745.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	750.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	755.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	760.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	765.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares	Alvarez	770.0	-10	5.5	20.7
All Shares					

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Granger Trust, Greenwich Resources, Scotswood Industrial Estates; American Applied Graphics, BTP, John Lewis Group, Safefland, Schrode UK Growth Fund, Secure Retirement. **Economic statistics:** French May final consumer prices, US Treasury auction of long-term T-bills, Bank of France money market tender, Bank of France discount T-bill auction.

TOMORROW

Interims: Dwyer Estates, Heavitree Brewery, Soundtracs. **Finals:** Baring Emerging Europe, Business Post Group, DBS Taiwan, Chester Water, Chloride Group, Cheshire, Evans of Leeds, Halma, Howden Group, Morrison Construction Group, MS International, Northern, Northumbrian Beach Hotels, Tinsley Robot. **Economic statistics:** French May final consumer prices, French May household consumption, US May existing home sales, US June consumer confidence, US Johnson redbook sales.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Baillie Gifford Japan Trust (q3), Tepnel Life Sciences, Turkey Trust. **Finals:** Christie Group, Harvey Nichols, Hill Hire, Hogg Robinson, Lowndes Lambert Group, Murray Smaller Markets Trust, Northumbrian Fine Foods, TGI, Vendome Luxury Cards, Wimpy. **Economic statistics:** French April foreign trade balance, French June industry survey, US May durable goods orders.

THURSDAY

Interims: Crest Nicholson, Hardys & Hanson. **Finals:** Alba, Allen, Asda Group, BPB Industries, British Biotech, Dailywin Group, Falcon Holdings, Ideal Hardware, Kevin Systems, Man (ED&F) Group, ML Holdings, National Pacific Group, Quigleys, Vega Group, Yale Brothers. **WEDNESDAY** **Economic statistics:** French June industry survey, US April global trade balance, UK May non-EU trade balance, US weekly jobless claims, Bundesbank council meeting.

FRIDAY

Interims: Lonrho, Partridge Fine Arts, Finalis, Bournemouth and West Hampshire Water, Kenning Motor Group, Samuel Heath, Jones & Shipman, Martin Curtis, Japan, **Economic statistics:** French May unemployment, UK Output growth, US G1 national GDP, US Chicago June PMI, US June Michigan consumer sentiment index, G7 summit in Lyon.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

Asda trades on impressive growth

ASDA: Archie Norman will have to take time off from his court battles with the drug companies to give the City an update on current trading this week. Full-year figures on Thursday are expected to make impressive reading, with pre-tax profits set to increase from £252.2 million to almost £260 million on a 13 per cent increase in sales to around £5.9 billion. Profits in the previous year were struck after provisions of £11 million and a £6 million property loss.

Mr Norman may not be flavour of the month with the drug companies after his attempt to sell drugs in Asda stores at below the minimum recommended retail price, but his following in the City remains strong. Asda has been transformed from a struggling food retailer into Britain's fourth-biggest supermarket chain. The group's growth record has also been impressive, with earnings this time expected to climb from 5.76p to 7.20p. Shareholder loyalty should be rewarded with a 21 per cent increase in the net dividend, to 2.65p.

The strong sales growth is likely to have provided scope for a small increase in margins, in spite of the petrol price war and heavy marketing programmes for selected goods. Brokers will be anxious to know whether Asda will follow Tesco and Sainsbury and introduce its own loyalty card. Such a move would boost sales and lock in customers but would also cost something in excess of £40 million.

BPB INDUSTRIES: Against the backdrop of a depressed building sector, the group will have spent much of 1995 running hard just to stand still. The slump in housing and bad winter weather will have taken their toll as full-year figures on Thursday will testify. Pre-tax profits are expected to reveal a small downturn of around £3 million, to £170 million, with earnings also declining from 25.3p to 22p. That compares with £27 million last time. Earnings per share are also expected to drop from 21.7p to 25.9p, mainly the result of a higher tax charge.

But there have been other problems. The growing strength

of the Swiss franc by almost 20 per cent against the dollar has hit margins during the past two years, with the group unable to pass on price increases. The matter has been made worse by the slower than expected recovery in the rest of Europe. Vendome has almost £300 million in the bank, but it seems the opportunities for suitable acquisitions to expand are limited.

BRITISH BIOTECHNOLOGY: In terms of share price, the group is one of the strongest performers in the market, moving from

£16.83 to a peak of £33.15 this year alone; not bad for a company that has still to make a single penny in profit. But if you believe its followers, it is a company with enormous potential long-term. City hopes are being pinned on Marimastat, its pancreatic cancer treatment, which last week began official Phase 3 trials. But the group does have other drugs in its portfolio that should come on stream before Marimastat. Greig Middleton, the broker, is forecasting a pre-tax loss of £25 million, compared with £26.3 million last time.

VENDOME LUXURY GROUP:

Full-year figures on Wednesday are likely to reveal the ravages of a poor Christmas mainly reflecting the national strike in France towards the end of last year. This has already caused brokers such as Henderson Crosthwaite to reduce their forecast of pre-tax profits by £20 million, to £23.5 million. That compares with £27 million last time. Earnings per share are also expected to drop from 21.7p to 25.9p, mainly the result of a higher tax charge.

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CINVen acquires academic publisher

Routledge, the academic publisher, has been bought by CINVen, the venture capital company, in a £28 million deal.

The Thomson Corporation sold Routledge, which specialises in social science and humanities works. Bob Kiernan, previously a senior executive at Thomson, becomes executive chairman of the publisher. Routledge publishes more than 800 titles a year in London and New York and last year had a turnover of more than £30 million.

CINVen, which was bought by its management from British Coal last year, is the UK market leader in arranging management buyouts and buy-ins. The deal with Thomson comprises £15 million equity funding by CINVen and debt facilities from Royal Bank of Scotland.

Priory MBO

Priory Hospitals, Britain's largest acute psychiatric hospital group whose patients have included Michael Barrymore, the entertainer, and Paul Merson, the footballer, has been sold in an £85 million management buyout. The buyout, from owners Community Psychiatric Centres of America, was led by Dr Ian Reynolds, the managing director, and the deal was financed by a division of Mercury Asset Management.

Strong support

Sir Bob Reid, chairman of Sears, is expected to make a powerful defence of the retailer's chief executive, Liam Strong, at tomorrow's annual meeting, to be held in central London. Mr Strong has been under fire over the group's divisional programme.

Links drive

Small businesses succeed if they have drive and ambition, and a customer-focused approach, according to a Government survey launched today with a £1.5 million advertising campaign to promote Business Links advice centres.

Market's success prompts companies to line up for membership

AIM prepares to accelerate pace of growth

By CLARE STEWART AND GRAHAM SEARLE

THE Alternative Investment Market, having just celebrated a first year that saw quotations multiply from ten to 165, is set to accelerate its rate of growth as more companies line up to join the market that brings together risk-taking investors and companies wanting to raise money for expansion.

Gender Wars will be AIM next month, when SCI, the computer games company, floats. Gender Wars is one of SCI's recently launched interactive games for the CD-Rom market. It is aimed at teenage and adult players. SCI sells its products in more than 49 countries, and through 30,000 stores worldwide.

The company was formed by Jane Cavanagh in 1988. Having seen the success of Nintendo and Sega in Japan, she spotted the potential of interactive entertainment.

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Chemical Research Holdings, also from the Durlacher/Neil Clark stable, stems from the equally fashionable but wholly different biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector, where it designs and supplies software to leading companies. It plans to raise money next month to expand its overseas network.

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Euro '96 had a disgracefully unsporting start. Or so you would think if you judged the opening matches by the yellow and red cards issued. Notebookfuls of bookings suggested sullen battles of cheats and bullies rather than the innocent elegance of the world's favourite team game. Had European football descended to a level of cynicism not seen for a generation?

Well no, actually. Anyone viewing the games saw no viciousness and little ill temper. Rather, players and spectators were bemused, and some games spoilt by intrusive officiousness of self-important referees. Things soon calmed down but the tournament will be affected to the end as key players are suspended, perhaps for no more than a minor indiscretion. Doubtless, the Uefa football authorities had urged refs to stamp their authority from the start to forestall bad play. Doubtless too, the odd official reckoned that a commanding stern display would get him noticed by the governing body and chosen for a top match.

How different from cricket, where rubicund umpires, usually county bowlers or batsmen in their time, tend to identify with players rather than the authorities. In the world of business regulation, however, these avuncular figures would be damned as having been "captured by the industry they were paid police."

Self-regulation in the City can still be cosy. Sadly, human nature being what it is, some of those beholden to the authorities for advancement

Show a red card to those whistle-happy referees

tend to behave like the first round refs of Euro '96. They are, after all, only doing their job on behalf of consumers, investors or competing Davids. They often deserve our gratitude. But the officious, ambitious and politically correct can inflict serious harm in the process.

As in Euro '96, regulators can stultify the game and they can deprive it of key players. Regulation of retail financial services, for instance, threatens to wipe out local professional advisers as by-product of rooting out the undoubtedly abuses. Regulation of British Gas resulted in customers suffering worse service and having more cause for complaint than at any time since privatisation. Telecoms regulators ensured that telephone boxes worked, prices tumbled and service was transformed. But their determination to force competition into the market probably snatched away forever the prize of a national broadband grid.

Worst of all, though more insidiously, over-zealous regulators can make people think an industry is far worse than it actually is. That undoes their good work, making customers feel worse off.

Life assurance regulators had to



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

act firmly to stop long-standing abuses. But their high-profile campaign on personal pensions, perhaps inevitably, exacerbated public distrust. Sales have slumped further just when customers are being offered better deals and when pension protection is more vital.

Last week Ian Byatt, the water industry regulator, admitted that the greatest challenge now facing water companies and Ofwat was probably to win public confidence. Mr Byatt is the best of the utility regulators, though he could have kept current bills lower had he taken the short-term City view that has come to dominate water and electric-

ity since they were thrown open to takeovers. You would have to stretch credulity to blame Ofwat for Yorkshire Water giving too high a priority to parsimony and making an ass of itself in last summer's drought. Ofwat was duly thumped in the company in the wallet.

In a startling display of political incorrectness, however, Mr Byatt leapt to the defence of the industry in general. Its record in cutting costs and delivering investment economically is better than he believed possible at privatisation. And its service in the drought was far better than in the old days. Half the companies imposed no restrictions at all, unheard-of in the 1970s and 1980s. Complaints were down again. To my mind, that is a sign of good regulation: a sustained rise in complaints should earn a regulator the sack. Yet water is under constant attack, making its customers more resentful. Yesterday, *The Observer* "revealed" tax breaks that were built in and publicised at privatisation to stop prices rising even more.

Like banks or insurance companies, utilities will never be lauded for supplying basic essential services efficiently, with ample reward.

Rightly, we only notice power cuts, late trains or unexpected bills. Utilities are under attack because they were privatised by a government that is now unpopular and because a quirk of the RPI-X price formula sent profits soaring in the recession. Oddly, a change of government and a cathartic levy might eventually help their image.

Water is more unpopular because charges have risen sharply — even though Ofwat has knocked off £2 billion — to pay for massive unseen investment. Companies could have done more to tell customers what their money has bought, and to press for charging systems that shield poorer households.

All utilities should show restraint in top pay even if takeover pressure does not allow it in dividends. BT has shown that utilities can win back confidence if they try hard enough. The next step may be for utilities to take the risk on inflation and get rid of the misunderstood RPI-X formula. Simple pledges not to raise prices for four years would carry more weight with consumers.

Regulators also need to learn, via their employers, that the measure of their success is public satisfaction with their industry, not merely an economic calculus, even prices. They should avoid disruptive change that brings mass job losses or endangers standards. There is no virtue in blowing their whistles shrilly all the time to show their zeal. That, presumably, is what Uefa eventually told the Euro '96 refs.

Philip Bassett says most companies may be indifferent to a statutory wage level

Minimum pay, minimal issue

Inistence by business leaders and Government ministers that Labour's plans for a national minimum wage will push up pay levels and hit jobs are undercut today by new evidence that suggests strongly that most companies will not feel hard hit by a national minimum.

Even further, it suggests that three-quarters of them are either neutral about, or in favour of, a statutory floor to pay in Britain. Labour Party leaders are delighted at the findings of a survey of the impact of a minimum wage published today by Reed, the UK employment agency.

Business organisations such as the CBI, which maintain strongly that industry in Britain is firmly opposed to a national minimum, will find themselves less comfortable.

Business shows a close interest in the party's plans to sign the social chapter and to introduce a national minimum wage (NMW). Against this background, Labour is readying itself to launch shortly a new drive to promote the NMW, which will emphasise its centrality to Labour's plans for economic improvement and social justice.

The move over an NMW is in line with Labour's new proposals on rights at work. It is controversial because of what some trade union leaders see as a watering down of previous commitments, espe-

cially on the availability of full protection rights from unfair dismissal for a worker from day one of employment.

The proposals were issued at the weekend, on the morning of England's titanic struggle at Wembley with Spain. In what some Labour leaders privately acknowledged was a "de-emphasised" manner.

While the proposals, drawn up like the party's minimum wage plans in co-operation with business, unquestionably mark a scaling-back of some of what Labour's modernisers always saw as the two proudest pledges by John Smith, the former party leader, they are for business in particular a fleshing out of commitments which his successor, Tony Blair, has consistently given.

These issues are representation at work union recognition where supported by a majority, a NMW, signing the social chapter, reunification of GCHQ, and basic employment rights under the law for all employees.

Labour is convinced that these minimum standards, in line with those operating in other EU member states, will not only be electorally popular, but will be largely irrelevant to most companies in Britain, many of whose own standards are already substantially higher.

Although Labour will not set a rate for the NMW until it should succeed to office — and

then only after close consultation with business as well as the unions — it is clear that any level finally chosen is likely to be lower than minimum levels offered already by many successful companies. In the retail sector, for example, the current minimum wage at Tesco is £3.83 an hour, while at Marks & Spencer it is £4 and at Sainsbury's £4.

Reed's survey today suggests that even if a minimum wage is set at a rate *higher* than these figures, at £4.15, contrary to what business bodies and the Government have both claimed it will have little or no economic impact on most firms.

Picking a level which has been previously suggested by some unions as a target for Labour's NMW on the basis of a link with official earnings figures — a link Labour has already formally abandoned — Reed's survey of 250 companies across a range of sectors finds, as the graphic shows, that a national minimum would have only a very limited impact. On pay, only 5 per cent of staff in the companies surveyed would get a rise at all under an NMW set at £4.15. A third of the firms covered by the survey pay less than £4.00 as their own current minimum.

Most of the claims by business and the Government about the impact on employment of a national minimum wage on firms maintaining current wage differentials, but the Reed figures show companies are fairly evenly divided on whether they would do so, with 37 per cent saying they would, and 35 per cent stressing they would not.

Even given the proportion of employers who would maintain differentials, the effect on job would seem to be small. As many as 79 per cent of companies say that even a minimum of £4.15 — considerably higher than most business leaders expect a NMW to be — would make no change to their current permanent staffing levels, and 77 per cent say their temporary staff numbers would not change. The figures were similar for projected future staff levels.

While such findings will not close down economists' arguments about the effects on employment of an NMW, they deal a blow to those who argue, against the grain of considerable academic evidence from the US in particular, that a minimum wage means job losses.

UK ministers and business



leaders will be looking very closely at US employment rolls over the coming months to find any effect from America's recent 90-cent increase in its \$4.25 minimum — its first raise since 1989.

But they are discomfited by the fact that because a NMW is so electorally popular in the US that almost 100 Republican congressmen broke with their party to vote with President Bill Clinton's Democrats to secure the increase.

Such popularity may well be reflected in Reed's survey of UK companies. Asked about the principle of an NMW, a total of 49 per cent of those studied said a national minimum was either very or quite good — a much higher figure than job losses.

UK ministers and business

bodies such as the CBI will acknowledge. Taken with a further 26.5 per cent who view it neutrally, the level of concern or clear support in firms in favour of a NMW stands at 75 per cent.

In the service sector it is higher, with 52 per cent of the companies surveyed in support. Although only 18 per cent of retailing firms are in favour, with 36 per cent regarding it as either quite or very bad, retailing companies neutral to a minimum make it a relatively even proposition.

Firms would be even more in favour if there were regional variations, though Labour's forthcoming document on the minimum wage will make it clear the party rejects this, as it does sectoral differences based on industry.

Minimum wages will particularly benefit low-paid women, Labour argues, and today the Government's Equal Opportunities Commission will show in its annual report that women's pay and employment conditions still lag behind men's (though it will show, too, record complaints from men about gender discrimination against them).

Academics from London University's Goldsmiths College will also show today that actresses earn some 15 per cent less than male actors, while the Fawcett Society, the equality campaigning body, last week said that many low-paid women earn less than such overall divides.

Earnings in the economy generally are holding steady, and even showing some initial

signs of falling back as inflation declines. The exception is managers' pay, which is actually making ground against inflation.

Still sore after the hard pounding given to boardroom pay in the "fat cat" row which led to last year's shareholder revolt, company executives' leaders will return to the fray over top pay tomorrow when the Institute of Directors examines the issue of executive pay in small firms, which IOD leaders claim were largely forgotten in the big company-dominated Greenbury row.

Labour's plans for a national minimum wage could bite hardest among small businesses and the sectors' leaders will be amongst those lobbying most vociferously against Labour's proposals.

Polling evidence suggests that even it will not be enough to assuage the anger of small businesses at what they feel the Government's economic management has done to them.

Labour is tailoring many of its policies to meet the needs of business now, including those of small firms. A minimum wage is never likely to be favoured entirely by British business, but findings such as the Reed survey reinforce other evidence that the divisions are not so great. Away from the lobbying of the business organisations, the real views of business regarding a national minimum wage may be more complex and more sympathetic than industry leaders sometimes like to suggest.

RADIO CHOICE

Land of hope and despair

The Landscapes of Man. Radio 3, 9.35pm.

Susan Marling, launching her series about the rebirth of landscape interest, says that what is needed is fluency in the language of land and its iconography. She would be hard put to improve on the fluency of the experts she has trawled. Her star performer is the 70-year-old landscape visionary Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe who says what he should look beyond what the eye sees and concentrate on what it captures the mind. The author Richard North is strong on the impact of the green lobby. His philosophy: greens see landscape more as scenes of immense threat than places of comfort and beauty. Hence his definition of the environment as a landscape about which we are depressed.

Cities of Dreams and Desires. Radio 4, 7.45pm.

So what happened to Tom and Louise, Isambard and Nancy, an Father Damien? Was there life after *A View of the City from Westminster Bridge* repeated last Saturday night? Mandy Draycot La's sequel, *City of Dreams and Desires* dusts down and reacquaints us with characters. Same director (Cherry Cookson), one cast change (Anton Lesser now plays Tom) and same interplay between people and buildings. This time, the characters are caught in plans to erect private hospital next door to threatened Guy's. Strong characterisation, much soul-searching and social comment, excellent location sound, but far, far too much music.

Peter Davall

RADIO 1

FM Stereo, 6.30am Chris Evans, Inc. Newsbeat 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Rick Campbell 4.00 Matt Gossler, Inc. Newsdesk 7.00 News 10.15 OH 10.30 Peter Parker's Classic Radio 1 Session 1 (9) 10.00 Stuart Maconie 12.00 Wendy Lloyd 4.00am Clive Warren

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 10.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thomas 3.00 Ed Street 7.00pm John Peel 7.30 Green 7.45pm John Peel 7.45pm Ban Ban and a 2.20 Big Band Spectre 8.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00 Jazz Score Benny Green chairs the jazz quiz with Digby Fairweather, Campbell Burnap, Sheila Tracy and Monty Sunshine (9) 10.30 Carl Smith 12.05am Steve Madden 5.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 3 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, Inc. 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme inc at 6.55, 7.45 racing preview 8.35 The Magazine, Inc. 10.35 News from Europe 11.30 Food News 12.00 Midday with Max, Inc. 12.35pm Monday Stories, Inc. 1.15pm Tuesday Stories, Inc. 2.15pm Wednesday Stories, Inc. 3.15pm Thursday Stories, Inc. 4.15pm Friday Stories, Inc. 5.15pm Saturday Stories, Inc. 6.15pm Sunday Stories, Inc. 7.15pm Monday Stories, Inc. 8.15pm Tuesday Stories, Inc. 9.15pm Wednesday Stories, Inc. 10.15pm Thursday Stories, Inc. 11.15pm Friday Stories, Inc. 12.15pm Saturday Stories, Inc. 1.15pm Sunday Stories, Inc. 2.15pm Monday Stories, Inc. 3.15pm Tuesday Stories, Inc. 4.15pm Wednesday Stories, Inc. 5.15pm Thursday Stories, Inc. 6.15pm Friday Stories, Inc. 7.15pm Saturday Stories, Inc. 8.15pm Sunday Stories, Inc. 9.15pm Monday Stories, Inc. 10.15pm Tuesday Stories, Inc. 11.15pm Wednesday Stories, Inc. 12.15pm Thursday Stories, Inc. 1.15pm Friday Stories, Inc. 2.15pm Saturday Stories, Inc. 3.15pm Sunday Stories, Inc. 4.15pm Monday Stories, Inc. 5.15pm Tuesday Stories, Inc. 6.15pm Wednesday Stories, Inc. 7.15pm Thursday Stories, Inc. 8.15pm Friday Stories, Inc. 9.15pm Saturday Stories, Inc. 10.15pm Sunday Stories, Inc. 11.15pm Monday Stories, Inc. 12.15pm Tuesday Stories, Inc. 1.15pm Wednesday Stories, Inc. 2.15pm Thursday Stories, Inc. 3.15pm Friday Stories, Inc. 4.15pm Saturday Stories, Inc. 5.15pm Sunday Stories, Inc. 6.15pm Monday Stories, Inc. 7.15pm Tuesday Stories, Inc. 8.15pm Wednesday Stories, Inc. 9.15pm Thursday Stories, Inc. 10.15pm Friday Stories, Inc. 11.15pm Saturday Stories, Inc. 12.15pm Sunday Stories, Inc. 1.15pm Monday Stories, Inc. 2.15pm Tuesday Stories, Inc. 3.15pm Wednesday Stories, Inc. 4.15pm Thursday Stories, Inc. 5.15pm Friday Stories, Inc. 6.15pm Saturday Stories, Inc. 7.15pm Sunday Stories, Inc. 8.15pm Monday Stories, Inc. 9.15pm Tuesday Stories, Inc. 10.15pm Wednesday Stories, Inc. 11.15pm Thursday Stories, Inc. 12.15pm Friday Stories, Inc. 1.15pm Saturday Stories, Inc. 2.15pm Sunday Stories, Inc. 3.15pm Monday Stories, Inc. 4.15pm Tuesday Stories, Inc. 5.15pm Wednesday Stories, Inc. 6.15pm Thursday Stories, Inc. 7.15pm Friday Stories, Inc. 8.15pm Saturday Stories, Inc. 9.15pm Sunday Stories, Inc. 10.15pm Monday Stories, Inc. 11.15pm Tuesday Stories, Inc. 12.15pm Wednesday Stories, Inc. 1.15pm Thursday Stories, Inc. 2.15pm Friday Stories, Inc. 3.15pm Saturday Stories, Inc. 4.15pm Sunday Stories, Inc. 5.15pm Monday Stories, Inc. 6.15pm Tuesday Stories, Inc. 7.15pm Wednesday Stories, Inc. 8.15pm Thursday Stories, Inc. 9.15pm Friday Stories, Inc. 10.15pm Saturday Stories, Inc. 11.15pm Sunday Stories, Inc. 12.15pm Monday Stories, Inc. 1.15pm Tuesday Stories, Inc. 2.15pm Wednesday Stories, Inc. 3.15pm Thursday Stories, Inc. 4.15pm Friday Stories, Inc. 5.15pm Saturday Stories, Inc. 6.15pm Sunday Stories, Inc. 7.15pm Monday Stories, Inc. 8.15pm Tuesday Stories, Inc. 9.15pm Wednesday Stories, Inc. 10.15pm Thursday Stories, Inc. 11.15pm Friday Stories, Inc. 12.15pm Saturday Stories, Inc. 1.15pm Sunday Stories, Inc. 2.15pm Monday Stories, Inc. 3.15pm Tuesday Stories, Inc. 4.15pm Wednesday Stories, Inc. 5.15pm Thursday Stories, Inc. 6.15pm Friday Stories, Inc. 7.15pm Saturday Stories, Inc. 8.15pm Sunday Stories, Inc. 9.15pm Monday Stories, Inc. 10.15pm Tuesday Stories, Inc. 11.15pm Wednesday Stories, Inc. 12.15pm Thursday Stories, Inc. 1.15pm Friday Stories, Inc. 2.15pm Saturday Stories, Inc. 3.15pm Sunday Stories, Inc. 4.15pm Monday Stories, Inc. 5.15pm Tuesday Stories, Inc. 6.15pm Wednesday Stories, Inc. 7.15pm Thursday Stories, Inc. 8.15pm Friday Stories, Inc. 9.15pm Saturday Stories, Inc. 10.15pm Sunday Stories, Inc. 11.15pm Monday Stories, Inc. 12.15pm Tuesday Stories, Inc. 1.15pm Wednesday Stories, Inc. 2.15pm Thursday Stories, Inc. 3.15pm Friday Stories, Inc. 4.15pm Saturday Stories, Inc. 5.15pm Sunday Stories, Inc. 6.15pm Monday Stories, Inc. 7.15pm Tuesday Stories, Inc. 8.15pm Wednesday Stories, Inc. 9.15pm Thursday Stories, Inc. 10.15pm Friday Stories, Inc. 11.15pm Saturday Stories, Inc. 12.15pm Sunday Stories, Inc. 1.15pm Monday Stories, Inc. 2.15pm Tuesday Stories, Inc. 3.15pm Wednesday Stories, Inc. 4.15pm Thursday Stories, Inc. 5.15pm Friday Stories, Inc. 6.15pm Saturday Stories, Inc. 7.15pm Sunday Stories, Inc. 8.15pm Monday Stories, Inc. 9.15pm Tuesday Stories, Inc. 10.15pm Wednesday Stories, Inc. 11.15pm Thursday Stories, Inc. 12.15pm Friday Stories, Inc. 1.15pm Saturday Stories, Inc. 2.15pm Sunday

THE RED CARD 46

GRAHAM SEARJEANT
BLOWS THE WHISTLE
ON REGULATORS

BUSINESS

MONDAY JUNE 24 1996

REPORTING AHEAD 3

ASDA TAKES THE
OFF FROM BATIE
TO REPORT PROFS

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

'Plastic' traveller's cheques

Travellers will be able to replace traveller's cheques with a pre-paid plastic card if the pilot launch of Royal Bank of Scotland's Visa TravelMoney card, starting today in Edinburgh and Manchester, is successful.

The electronic card is "loaded" with up to £5,000 sterling and can then be used with PIN number to extract cash in foreign currencies from automatic hole-in-the-wall telling machines abroad.

Once exhausted, the card can be thrown away. The card aims to give instant cash with greater security and avoid travellers carrying a lot of foreign currency.

Wage support

Many employers support a national minimum wage but want it to reflect regional differences in pay, according to a new survey by Reed Personnel Services, the recruitment group, published today. Half of the 250 organisations surveyed said Labour's plan for a statutory minimum rate was a good idea, with only 20 per cent against, although there was more opposition from retailers. A majority of those questioned said they favoured a regionalised rate.

Minimal issue, page 46

Appeal date

Up to 60,000 part-time health, bank and shop workers who are claiming more than £95 million in back-dated occupational pensions will discover today whether their court appeal has been successful. The Employment Appeal Tribunal will deliver a ruling on their claims for rights to pensions stretching back in some cases to the 1970s. The TUC, which is co-ordinating the claims, has been pressing to get the two-year limit on back-dated compensation lifted and wants the case referred to the European Court of Justice. Britain has more part-time workers than the European Union average.



Accountants from Ernst & Young proved among the most willing gluttons for punishment at the first 24 Peaks Challenge in the Lake District yesterday. The Challenge, sponsored by merchant bank ING Barings to raise money for the charity Feed the Children, included four teams from the Big Six accountancy firm among 25, including many bankers, who took on the challenge of walking 31 miles to climb 24 peaks in 24 hours

LucasVarity defends 'golden parachutes'

By JASON NISSE

VICTOR RICE, chief executive-elect of LucasVarity, will be entitled to severance pay of more than £5 million if he is dismissed at any time in the five years after the £3.2 billion merger of Lucas Industries, the engineer, and Varity, the US group.

The golden parachute is equal to 4.4 times his annual salary of £600,000 plus the highest bonus he was paid in the previous three years, which currently is the £538,000 he received in 1994.

British-born Mr Rice was given this contract by Varity, which is based in the US where such contracts are not

unusual. But LucasVarity will be a UK company and the terms far exceed the guidelines set down by the Greenbury committee on executive pay in the UK, which says that service contracts should be of no more than two years and preferably should be only one.

Three other directors of Varity are also entitled to massive payments if they are dismissed within five years of the merger. They are Neil Arnold, Anthony Gilroy and Howard Chandler.

They would receive 3.5 times their total salary and bonus. The payoffs for these

three could reach £3.72 million. Not one of them is due to sit on the board of the newly merged company after the deal goes through, as it is expected to do later this year.

Other senior executives are entitled to payoffs equal to many multiples of their salary if dismissed in the two years after the LucasVarity merger.

Varity will not elaborate on how many executives this covered or what the liability to the company would be in this case.

"You have to understand that executive pay is of a different order of magnitude

in the US," said Kirsten Biehary, Varity's head of corporate affairs.

The terms of these golden parachutes are disclosed in a provisional prospectus which has been filed with the US Securities & Exchanges Commission in Washington. The document is not meant for distribution in the UK.

The potential payments stem from a change of control clause which is triggered by the merger of Lucas and Varity, even though the deal is a friendly one largely promoted by Mr Rice.

The payments are specified in a chapter entitled "Interest

of certain persons in the Reorganization" (sic) where it says: "Varity stockholders should be aware that certain officers or directors of Varity ... have interests ... that are different from or in addition to the interests of Varity stockholders generally."

Senior fund managers said that they would be raising the issue of golden parachutes with LucasVarity at meetings once the formal merger documents are out in the UK, which is not expected until next month.

Mike Beard, director of communications at Lucas, defended the golden parachutes.

"These concern a previous contractual arrangement.

The Greenbury guidelines have little to do with US companies and these people have to work out their existing contracts."

Valuation range adds to Energy sale confusion

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BRITISH ENERGY, the company owning the eight newest nuclear reactors, will on Wednesday be valued well below initial forecasts in band of estimates so wide that it emphasises City confusion over the last big privatisation.

The nuclear stations, expected to get a price tag within a range of £1.3 billion to £1.9 billion, will also be hampered by a rewritten prospectus referring to warnings from Labour that it could rescind nuclear's privileged status in the generation market.

A statement last week by John Battle, Shadow Energy Minister, that a Labour government could axe British Energy's preferred status in the electricity market - which means its output is guaranteed - is the only fundamental change to the full prospectus from the pathfinder document. If executed, the threat would have major implications for the cash generation of British Energy. Cash generation, along with a strong dividend policy, is one of the

key platforms on which British Energy is being marketed.

Early estimates had priced the business at about £2 billion which in itself was controversial figure, as it fell short of the £2.9 billion spent to build Sizewell B, the new reactor. The wide range of valuations that the Government is now considering goes beyond the usual City posturing on privatisations. It highlights the difficulty of gauging future prices of electricity o

British Energy.

Today is the last day for private registrations with share shops, through which individuals can buy at extra discounts. So far more than a million people have registered although the take-up is expected to be about a quarter of a million, which private investors taking about 30 per cent of the issue. The general discount for retail investors is expected to be about 5 per cent.

British Energy executives will be in the United States this week talking to American investment institutions.

Sainsbury's card attracts millions

By CAROLINE MERRELL

MORE than two and a half million people have registered for Sainsbury's new loyalty card in its first week.

The supermarket chain claims that more than 420,000 people a day have been signing up for the Reward Card, which offers Air Miles or a discount on purchases.

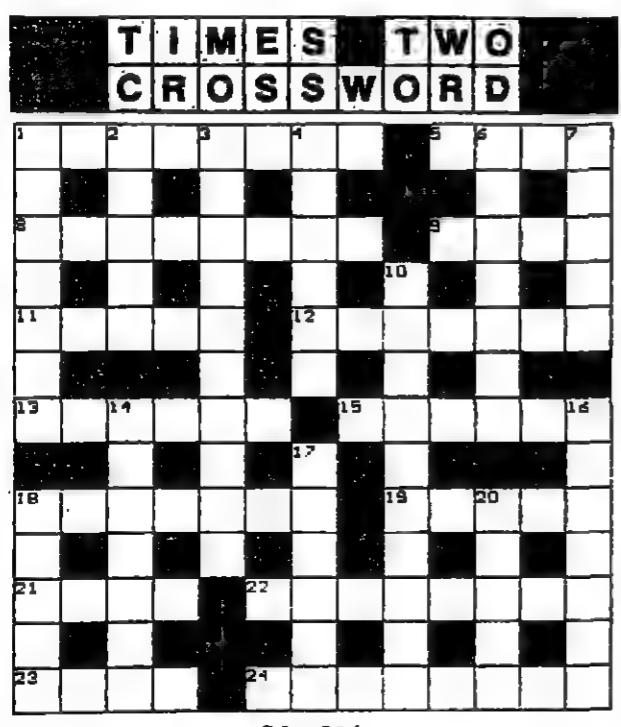
The move is a climbdown for the group, which last year dismissed loyalty cards as "electronic Green Shield stamps". A spokeswoman said yesterday that the sign-ups had been maintained on Saturday, despite the Euro 96 factor. She said: "We had a very large number of people who came shopping in the morning which helped to balance the afternoon which was far quieter as people went home to watch the football."

The 2.5 million figure included Saturday, but not Sunday figures. More than a million people shop in Sainsbury stores on Sunday, and the group anticipates that eventually more than seven million of its nine million customers will take the card.

Its launch is another sign of the war currently being fought between high street supermarkets. Last month, Sainsbury reported a £100m fall in profits.

The company's first profit fall in 22 years was put down to increasing competition with Tesco, which also launched a loyalty card last week. Tesco's Club Card Plus will pay savers 5 per cent interest and offer discounts related to the amount of money spent with the store. About 6.5 million Tesco customers already use its Club Card loyalty scheme, which provides the discounts without the additional banking facilities.

Sainsbury's card will give one point for £1 spent beyond £5. Two hundred and fifty points will give the customer 40 air miles. A return trip to Paris will cost around 3,000 Air Miles.



ACROSS

- 1 Flattering cajolery (4,4)
- 5 Lenient (4)
- 8 Cosmetic item (8)
- 9 Level; having lost fizz (4)
- 11 Ship eye cosmetic (5)
- 12 Bringing in no money (7)
- 13 Obscenely humorous (6)
- 15 Lucking experience (6)
- 18 Round building (7)
- 19 Breadmaker (5)
- 21 Forrest —, successful dumb boy (4)
- 22 Soaked up (8)
- 23 Mislead (4)
- 24 Hard, dull work (8)

SOLUTION TO NO 815

ACROSS: 1 Dowd, 7 Observe, 8 Lunette, 9 Twinkie, 11 Thrift, 13 Faultless, 15 Sacred cow, 19 Narrow, 21 Ski jump, 23 Utopian, 24 Venison, 25 Tech.

DOWN: 1 Delft, 2 Wintry, 3 Let off, 4 Post, 5 Vernal, 6 Useless, 10 Wallon, 12 Tandem, 14 Hackney, 16 Regain, 17 Wayout, 18 Cruise, 20 Winch, 22 Punt.

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Tomb of Mayan king gives up its treasures

AN EXPEDITION led by a British archaeologist has found the remains of a bejewelled Mayan king, thought to have ruled around AD 450.

Professor Norman Hammond of Boston University, co-director of the excavation at La Milpa in northern Belize and archaeology correspondent of *The Times*, said: "Mayan royal burials are fairly rare, and it is increasingly rare to find a site that has not been looted... when we realised that the chamber was undisturbed, it became very exciting."

The skeleton was found lying on its back about 10ft underground in a rock-cut burial chamber the size of a Volkswagen Beetle. The tomb probably escaped looting because unlike tombs of other Mayan kings, it had no marker indicating who was buried there or when, although evidence in the tomb suggests that it may have been a king known as Bird Jaguar who lived around AD 450 or his successor.

Professor Hammond said La Milpa was experiencing its first decline when the king died. "The people probably did not have the resources or desire left to commemorate him with a temple — or

□ The discovery of a spectacular jade necklace by a team led by Professor Norman Hammond, the Archaeology Correspondent of *The Times*, is as exciting as it is rare. He describes the burial chamber find to Leyla Linton

even a marker." However, the royal regalia with the skeleton include a spectacular necklace made from the apple-green jade of the Motagua valley in Guatemala, as well as jade mosaic ear-rings, and ear spools placed by the feet, made of black glassy obsidian.

A jade pendant attached to the necklace shows the head of a vulture, an icon which signified lord or ruler to the ancient Maya. Professor Hammond said: "It is a superb, unique piece of jade carving and a prime example of Maya lapidary art. This king wore his status on his chest," he said, announcing the find at a British Museum conference on the Maya yesterday. A jade bead the size of a cherry resting in the king's mouth, was probably placed there to receive the spirit.

Sara Donaghey, lecturer at Sheffield

College, who excavated the skeleton, said: "Seeing the jade gradually coming to light was really exciting. That is something I have not experienced before. The find is the stuff that archaeology is made of." Ms Donaghey said she had to bend herself like a banana in order to crawl into the black space. "It was painstaking work. I was one of the few people who could put myself in this awkward position. The skeleton was so fragile I used tools borrowed from my dentist to excavate it."

The front part of the skull had been smashed by rock falling from the roof of the tomb. The skeleton shows that the king in the chamber would have been between 5ft 2in and 5ft 4in tall. His teeth had been missing for some time before his death, possibly due to disease or bad eating habits. His neck vertebrae show signs of trauma at an earlier stage in his life, according to Frank and Julie Saul from Toledo, Ohio, experts in ancient bones who examined the skeleton in Belize as it was found.

La Milpa is about 70 miles northeast of the great Mayan city of Tikal in Guatemala. It was an important city for about a century. According to Dr Gair Tourtellot of Boston University, who is co-director of the project, La Milpa's population probably exceeded 50,000 at its peak between AD 750 and 850. The Maya built La Milpa around a great plaza which had two courts for the sacred rubber-ball game and was surrounded by four temple pyramids rising as high as 80ft.

The site was discovered in 1938 by Eric Thompson, but was not excavated until Professor Hammond's work began in 1992. Digging has been funded by the National Geographic Society, Boston University and this year by Raymond and Beverly Sackler of New York.

Archaeology report, page 22



Hammond: rare to find royal tomb that has not been looted



A Maya models the king's jade necklace with its vulture pendant



Skeleton of the bejewelled Mayan king, thought to be Bird Jaguar. His tomb was carved from solid rock beneath the plaza of the city of La Milpa in AD 450

OJ charity dinner raises storm

By TOM RHODES

HE HAS already protested his innocence to every network in America, made a public show of playing golf in Florida and spoken at the Oxford Union. But the reinvention of O.J. Simpson faces its sternest test this week when the former American football star hosts a formal fundraising event at his estate in Los Angeles for opponents of wife-battering.

Mr Simpson, who pleaded guilty in 1999 to beating his wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and amid controversy was acquitted of her murder last year, has been largely shunned by the Hollywood establishment in recent months.

More than 500 celebrities and assorted members of the Los Angeles glitterati, however, are expected to pay up to \$10,000 (£6,450) to attend a dinner and auction on Thursday at the Brentwood mansion where Mr Simpson was arrested after the killing of his wife.

Although the offer has been welcomed by the Stop the Violence / Increase the Peace foundation, the charity involved, it has brought demands of a boycott from relations and friends of the dead woman.

"Any organisation dedicated to stopping violence ought not to use Mr Simpson or allow Mr Simpson to use them in connection with their campaign," Gloria Allred, a lawyer representing Mrs Simpson's family said.

Indians take on cavalry again at Little Bighorn

FROM TOM RHODES IN NEW YORK

FOR more than a century America has been fascinated by George Custer, the young hero of the Civil War, the Indian fighter in the West and the man who apparently disobeyed orders and led his 250 cavalrymen to crushing defeat at Little Bighorn.

This represents the end of the way of life for the Indian people," said Mr Baker, who is preparing designs for another shrine to be built on Last Stand Hill. "When Indians come here they cry and they get mad for the loss of that way of life and that freedom."

More than the prospect of a new monument, however, the anniversary itself is at the heart of the new conflict after Mr Baker organised what he called a "day for the tribes". Prayers at the monument and a buffalo feast will be preceded by an attack-at-dawn ceremony in which Indians will ride horses to the boundary of the monument, head for a

mass grave where 200 soldiers are buried and "count coup" — an ancient tradition in which warriors proved their skill by striking the enemy with a stick.

The operation has angered those associated with the US Cavalry. A number of invitations to what Mr Baker has called the "wipe-away-tears ceremony" have been spurned. Major General Leon Laporte, who commands the First Cavalry Division at Fort Hood in Texas and is overall commander of the Seventh Cavalry, merely said his programme did not permit him to attend the event at the Crow Reservation.

Bob Wells, editor of the *Custer Little Bighorn Battlefield Advocate*, said Mr Baker had gone overboard. "What would people say if cavalry re-enactors went to Wounded Knee and touched the monument with sabres?"

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Day One of a new series: Faith is more important today than it has been for many years

Looking for a reason to believe

FORMAT

The 'me' generation of the Eighties now senses that, morally, it has travelled too light. Today, many people are searching for a faith which will help to give a deeper meaning to their lives

what we believe

Something is moving the middle classes. A decade ago scenes of pinstriped ecstasy, with hands held aloft and a babble of indecipherable languages, would have called to mind a frantic morning on the trading floor or a late night at a club.

Now the same energy, abandonment even, is found in church. For many of Britain's bruised there has been a turning away from the material and towards the spiritual. The anxious classes are finding reassurance in Christianity, while others experiment with alternative creeds.

The era of the Enlightenment, when religion was in retreat, is drawing to a close, and in its place we are witnessing a new willingness to experiment with aspects of the eternal — it is the dawning not so much of the Age of Aquarius, more of the Age of Curiosity.

The reaction against reason shows itself in any number of ways. Rising violent crime encourages a more animal view of man's real nature. The spread of BSE, the most terrifying of a succession of food scares, has contributed to an undermining of confidence in science. There has been a resurgence of national identity, expressed ethnically and not culturally, from the border counties of Ulster through an increasingly anti-immigrant Europe to Bosnia. It suggests a world grown weary of the appeal of intellect and insularity, and happier with blood and soil. With reason fugitive, individuals are turning to

'It is the dawning of the Age not of Aquarius but of the Curious'

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As the millennium approaches, their parents' generation is searching for new meanings to life, but where will these adults of the 21st century turn for spiritual fulfilment?

faith as a civilising influence. These deeper forces lapping on our shores influence a society less sure of itself after the 1980s, when individual reason was enthroned. That decade saw the ascendancy of the "me" generation — benefiting from free markets and deregulated morality. Now there is a perception that excessive trust in the mechanics of economic production, and indeed of sexual reproduction, has produced an environment where industrial and personal relations have become barren.

Financial security has been ephemeral for many. At its loosest in the invocation of "community", people are trying to find a voice outside themselves to guide their lives. In politics, an electorate apparently disaffected with the limits of liberalism hear some-

thing of what they want in Tony Blair's explicitly moral language. And Mr Blair's own faith also encourages many to find that voice in God.

The path to faith is always intensely personal but, as with politics, attitudes can be influenced by the mood of a generation as much as by the promptings of conscience. There are distinct currents apparent in different ages.

Among teenagers and young adults religious feeling has most obviously found an expression in the loose bundle of belief that is New Age thought. New Age thinking is, ultimately, as chaotically mixed and under-nourishing as the broth bubbling on an open campfire at a Newbury protest site. It allows an antipathy to progress to exist side by side with an enjoyment of its fruits.

In the generation broadly in their thirties, other influences are at work. A more intimate engagement with the hopes and values of the 1980s has led to a reaction less violent but possibly more rooted than that of those a few years younger.

For many the waning of confidence in material progress has coincided with the changes wrought by family life and childbirth.

The natural review of values the creation of new life brings has, for many, been given greater urgency by a sense that they travelled too light, morally, through the past decade. But, while getting and spending assume less importance, other influences of a Conservative age persist. The journey many in their thirties make back to Christianity.

Damian Thomson believes that economic insecurity has

were formed in the 1960s the detournement of reason is not a restoration of balance but the tyranny of superstition.

Scientists such as Richard Dawkins, the author of *Climbing Mount Improbable*, see in any upsurge in faith a regression to an infantile way of looking at the world that they had fought against. But, in their own way, scientists such as Dawkins are themselves part of a priesthood, with a fundamental world-view that explains it all, an animus against heretics as powerful as any medieval Pope, and an optimistic belief in progress.

But faith in science appears to be evolving into the creed of an ever more exclusive breed. It has become the victim of the relativism it once rode to prominence on — just another option in the market for meaning" for questing souls.

suburbia. There is still hope of being surprised the evening of the wedding of Leopold and Sophie just once revealed a more

Today, perhaps the extraordinary of the evening has been replaced by sex. Sex is, I believe, contemporary religion, and par excellence. How to explain the hysterical claims made for sex magazines, non-fiction on sex on billboards or in envelopes from Amatis. Sex has supplanted religion as the way to the beyond.

But why? Two thousand years ago Socrates identified Eros as a desire to dominate the world and the next. The mosquito that gives Pol Pot malaria is the beginning of the punishment. I believe that a soul can suffer torment after the living shell has died.

A second reason, following on from this, might be that sex is dominated by reason. So confident are we in intellectual security that

had a decisive effect on this generation. "For the disoriented young professionals who hanker after a stable community they have never really known, Evangelical Christianity provides friendship, certainty, identity and discipline."

There are other prosaic influences that push young families back to established ways.

They may attend the local church to get their child into church schools. But enthusiasm, even more than calculation, has brought young professionals back to the pews.

Evangelical Christianity is the biggest area of growth, offering spiritual self-assurance in informal clothes.

The popularity of Christian

faith among thirty-somethings,

and the embracing of other

beliefs among those who are

younger, alarms their elders.

For many whose attitudes

are still rooted in the 1960s

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Out of the mouths of babes

ORIGINS OF FAITH

ARE WE born with a sense of spirituality, or do we develop it? Researchers at Nottingham University approached this question by interviewing 50 children from Nottingham and Birmingham about their beliefs.

The team found the children to be more sophisticated in their beliefs than many people might think; they also found a strong sense of taboo associated with spiritual matters.

The idea for the research came from Dr David Hay and the interviews were conducted by Rebecca Nye, a research fellow. Both are from the university's School of Education. "Spirituality has been debated a lot in education, and it has emerged as something quite separate from religion," Ms Nye says. "It

might be a sense of awe in a science lesson, or during a walk in the park."

Ms Nye and Dr Hay were looking for ideas and thoughts which were not based on particular knowledge, such as a certain religion. They sought to avoid references to imaginary or magical worlds.

The children, an equal number of boys and girls, fell into two age groups — six to seven-year-olds, and ten to 11-year-olds. They came from state schools, and included some Muslims. The majority of the children did not attend church. "I asked about hobbies, pets and friendships, because we were also interested

in what they said about worldly things," she explains.

Children were not questioned about their family. Religion was avoided — unless it was brought up by the child.

"They weren't across-the-board believers or non-believers. Some were quite mature atheists," she says.

"One six-year-old pretended he was doing a chat show and told me: 'I'm going to talk to you about the meaning of life.' Embarrassment or taboo, was a constant theme, she says. "The children felt they couldn't discuss it with their friends and family. It was odd because they had so much to say, and some got quite annoyed that I wasn't going to talk to them again."

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Embarrassment or taboo



Why do we need to believe — and are we born with an innate sense of spirituality?

Has sex become a substitute for religion?

THE LUST FOR SENSATION

The rumour of God is not yet dead. Even if that name is no longer fashionable, the notion that there is some other world beyond the present continues to resurface in unexpected places.

Once, religion had an urgent role to play in ensuring civilisation's collective survival; but now that the increasing affluence of the Western world has knocked away the urgency of religion, so, I suggest, religion has largely developed into "spirituality": the individual quest for experience of some other world. And since these experiences of another world are by no means limited to the religious areas of life, spirituality is in turn being absorbed by secular culture.

Yet, as the great church historian Owen Chadwick suggests, when the human race has had an experience it finds to be authentic, it rarely lets it go. The memory of an other-worldly religion haunts the human imagination even amid the comforts of flat-earth

happily let our devils out to play and enjoy horrors on screen and stage.

Even so, the human body is still the great unknown, the great anti-intellectual mystery. Since sex is also where we are at our most embodied — sexual intercourse involves being taken over by the body, surrendering to its rhythms and urges — and since the body is the nightmare side of the rational psyche, in sex we play with the tiger that will finally consume us.

Sexual intercourse thus takes on all the power and fury of encountering the world of repressed fears. No wonder it is held to be religious.

But if sex is spirituality, then it must be able to satisfy the human need for hell as well as for ecstasy. And this is what we find. The language in which crimes such as child sexual abuse, rape, torture, sexual exploitation and murder are reported in the press draws on an armoury of medieval imagery. Time and again, editorials urge us to witness the transcendent horrors of humanity's diabolical inhumanity to itself in the name of sex.

Sex, of course, like any other religion, has its rituals which act to create or propagate the sacred space: the endlessly repeated liturgies of Hollywood and the formulaic liaisons of Mills & Boon: the shamelessly recycled articles on "How to catch your man".

Even clergy are brought into the new religion: since they are the local experts on religion, they are unconsciously assumed also to be expert in the mystique of sex. How else to explain the disappointment when they fail, the prurient delight in exposing their sexual sins?

Most of this, of course, is nonsense, the fantasies with which an affluent generation likes to titillate itself. But perhaps there is a serious point to be made. If you consider that no eternal salvation is possible, then sex offers a way of transcending death.

Sex is so often associated with pleasure in the popular press that its links with reproduction are almost forgotten. And yet if, through sexual intercourse, you recover some ancient sacred space, there is a sense in which you are discovering meaning in a one-dimensional world, of which the final symbol is having children and thus peopling the empty universe.

CHARLES PICKSTONE
• The author is vicar of St Laurence Church, Caiford, and art critic for the current affairs review, *The Month*. His book *Fear of the Angels: How Sex Supplanted Religion* is published by Hodder & Stoughton in October.

suburbia. There is always the hope of being surprised — that theouting to Loch Ness might just once reveal a monster.

Today, perhaps the most extraordinary of the remaining avenues to surprise is that sex. Sex is, I believe, the contemporary religion substitute par excellence. How else to explain the hyperbolic claims made for sex in magazines, non-fiction on television, on billboards or in brown envelopes from Amsterdam? Sex has supplanted religion in the imagination as our favourite way to the beyond.

But why? Two thousand five hundred years ago, Socrates identified Eros as a daemon. If today the greater gods have packed their bags, we are at least left with those lesser beings, the daemons and half-gods. A glimpse of a chest or naked breasts still stirs our chthonic.

A second reason, following on from this, might be that our age is dominated by reason. So confident are we in our intellectual security that we

are willing to believe that the links with reproduction are almost forgotten. And yet if, through sexual intercourse, you recover some ancient sacred space, there is a sense in which you are discovering meaning in a one-dimensional world, of which the final symbol is having children and thus peopling the empty universe.

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Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley in *Ab Fab* — said to be loosely based on Franks's life

what I believe

AS BY ATT

Do you believe in God?

I have a religious temperament but I don't have any belief.

Do you believe in ghosts?

No.

Is there life after death?

The body dies but our genes live on. They just go on mutating endlessly.

Do you believe in astrology?

Astrology is a metaphor and any good writer will tell you that it is dangerous. Certain poems and paintings can fill me with a sense of wonder that is similar to people's religious experiences.

Do you think your sins

will be punished?

I believe in cause and effect, but I don't think there is a deity passing judgment. Sin is culturally defined.

Have you ever prayed?

I was brought up as a Quaker and I do sometimes contemplate.

Does faith matter?

Yes, and I agree with Salman Rushdie that it is dangerous. Certain poems and paintings can fill me with a sense of wonder that is similar to people's religious experiences.

Explaining the ultimate enigmas

THE THREE GREAT GUIDES

A JOURNALIST once put the question to me — if I went to Heaven which great philosopher would I try to talk to first?

The first is Socrates. To me he represents reason. He posed the fundamental questions upon which philosophy is based. Who are we? Where do we come from?

The universe is such an amazing enigma; just wondering about it makes me feel alive. The fact that we cannot answer all the questions about the universe does not matter. Pondering on them is enough.

Unlike some scientists, I do believe that there is some kind

of purpose and direction behind the evolution of the universe. I do not think that it has all been an accident.

The second person I would like to meet is Jesus. He was the most important moral philosopher of all. He taught

TOMORROW

Henry Dent-Brocklehurst on learning to live with guilt about money... and why Andrew Harvey has repudiated his former guru

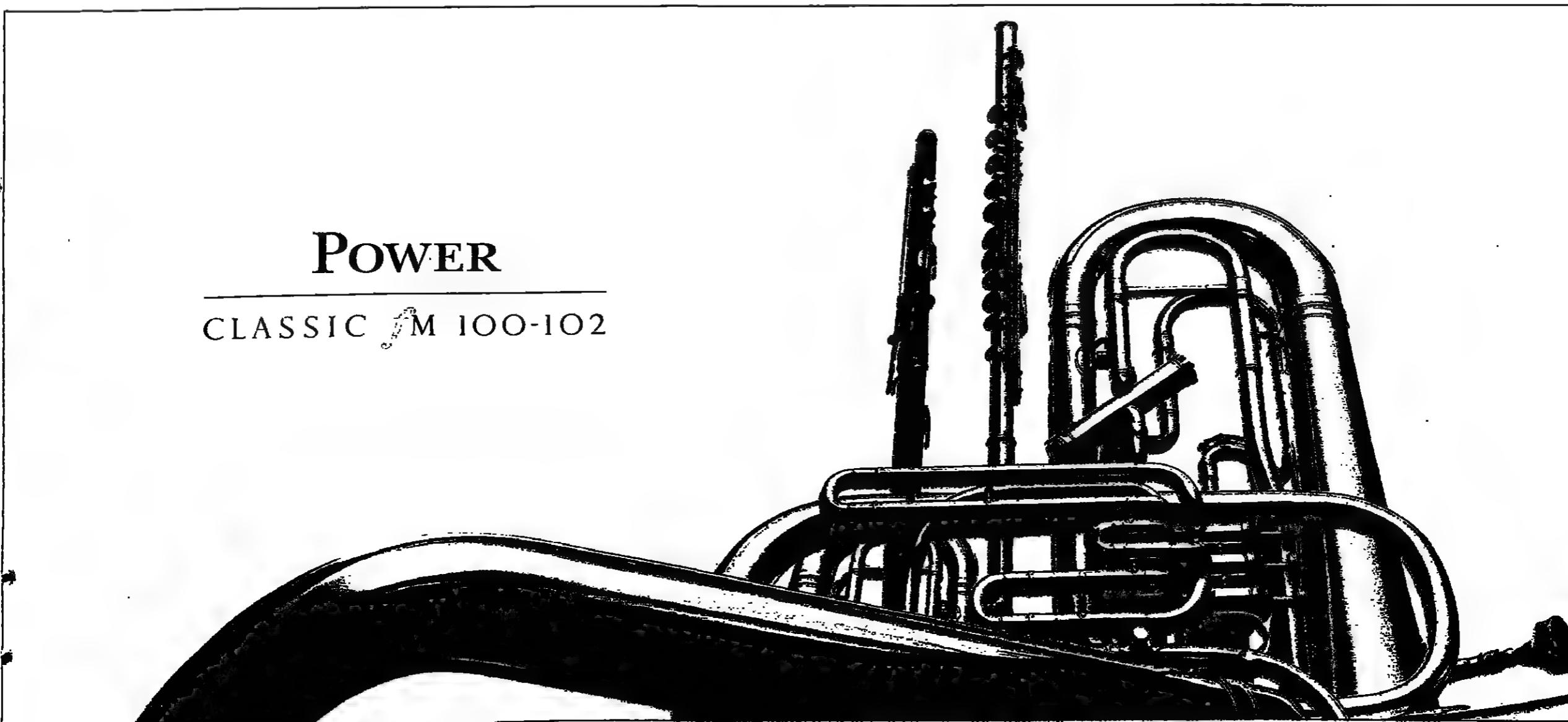
er He is the son of God, or not, so I cannot believe in the Christian revelation.

Finally, I would like to meet Buddha. To me he stands for contemplation and oneness. I believe that we are all part of a larger whole. Many years ago my doctor asked me to take some tests and I was afraid that I might have a serious illness. I went for a long walk in the forest and was comforted by the thought that I was part of all the nature around me.

JOSTEIN GAARDER

• Jostein Gaarder's novel *The Solitaire Mystery* was published on June 17 by Phoenix House.

POWER
CLASSIC FM 100-102



The human role in climatic change

Heat of the debate

CHARGE and counter-charge are winging to and fro in the debate over global warming. This month the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a report concluding that the evidence "suggests discernible human influence on global climate".

But the document has been attacked. First a group of environmental scientists, the European Science and Environment Forum, said that the IPCC had condoned oversimplified summaries of complex issues, and reached conclusions not justified by the evidence.

Then an industrial body, the Global Climate Coalition (GCC), accused the IPCC of allowing a key chapter to be re-edited. This is Chapter 8, which deals with the question of whether human activities are having an effect on the world climate.

John Shlaes, the executive director of the GCC, says that the revised version over-emphasises the human role in climate change. The changes, he says, raise questions over whether the IPCC has "compromised or even lost its scientific credibility".

"Dangerous and absurd," responds Dr Ben Santer, an atmospheric scientist from Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in California, who redrafted the chapter. "Scurrilous," says Sir John Houghton, co-chairman of the IPCC's scientific working group.

Altering the chapter, he says, was perfectly within IPCC's rules, and many of the



**SCIENCE
BRIEFING**

Nigel
Hawkes

changes were prompted by the GCC, which lobbied oil-producing countries to oppose the original chapter. "This was resisted by the IPCC and we have now ended up with a document that is scientifically much better," he told *Nature*.

Dr Roger Bate, the director of the Environment Unit at the Institute of Economic Affairs in London, says the IPCC reminds him of George Orwell's *1984*, where history was rewritten to conform to political whims. The clarifications, he says, have cleansed the report of any sense of uncertainty.

For example, the original version contains the sentence: "None of the studies cited above has shown clear evidence that we can attribute the observed changes to the specific cause of increase in greenhouse gases."

In the revised version, says Dr Bate, this is replaced by: "Implicit in these global mean results is a weak attribution statement — if the observed global mean changes over the last 30 to 50 years cannot be fully explained by natural climate variability some (un-known) fraction of the changes must be due to human influences."

Dr Santer says all the changes can be scientifically justified. But Dr Bate is unrepentant, arguing that the report will convince governments to cut the use of fossil fuels at 1997's Climate Change Convention. If so, he says, "this will be the most expensive policy decision ever made".

Sponge away a bad bone break

A SPONGE soaked with the genetic material DNA could be the answer to difficult bone breaks that refuse to mend, a team from the University of Michigan has reported. The researchers found that an open matrix made of the structural material collagen and impregnated with the genes that create bone protein caused rapid repair of broken bones in rats.

Most bones repair well, but there are times when large gaps have to be bridged. Bone-grafting can be used to fill the gaps but does not always work. The new method may provide an alternative, says Professor Jeffrey Bonadio, whose team reported the results in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

When the collagen sponges are placed in the gaps, cells start growing across them. They then apparently take up the DNA with which the sponges have been baited, and start making the proteins. He admitted he did not understand the process, but added: "If we can do this in bone tissues, we can do it in other wounds. It is difficult to sew a liver back together. Using the collagen matrix, it would depend only on the DNA used."

Why some cells self-destruct

THE trigger that leads cells to self-destruct has been discovered by scientists at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, Israel. The finding may help in understanding diseases believed to be caused by the process, such as juvenile diabetes and multiple sclerosis.

Cell suicide, or apoptosis, is a process vital to the shaping of organs. But in autoimmune diseases, where the immune system starts destroying its host, the process goes wrong. For some time it has been known that cells get the instruction to desist through three receptor molecules on their surfaces.

The team, led by Professor David Wallach,

has discovered that an enzyme turns this instruction into action. It is relayed from the receptor to proteins within the cell, which it then chops up, causing the cell to die.

"We were amazed to discover how little it takes to trigger cellular self-destruction," says Professor Wallach, whose team published their findings in the journal *Cell*. "It's as if cells always live on the brink of suicide."

The enzyme has been called MACH. The team believes its discovery may make it possible to block some diseases.



Norris McWhirter searches for the first place to witness sunrise on the millennium

The dawn of a new age

of just over 66°S at sea level. The calculation assumes that a sunrise must be preceded by a sunset. With the Antarctic cap rising almost two miles high in places, an observer would still have to be at sea level to see a sunrise.

It has been established, therefore, that no new year sunrise above a sea horizon can be observed from the Antarctic Adelie coast. Cape Ellsworth, the northern tip of Young Island, is about six-and-a-half nautical miles too far south to have a qualifying sunrise. The sunrise at Campbell Island is too late to be a contender.

You could try to catch the earliest millennium sunrise on terra firma in the uninhabited Antipodes Islands from the summit of the 366 metre-high Mount Galloway (49° 5'S, 175° 47.08'E) at 3.54am New Zealand standard time, or 15.54 GMT. However, these islands are owned by the New Zealand Government and administered by its Department of Conservation (DoC).

While the DoC does occasionally make, or attempts to make, flora and fauna monitoring visits, permission for attempts to land by tourists or millenarians, would not, one learns, even be considered. There is no aircraft landing strip and surrounding seas are rough — even rougher than the negligible prospect of clear summer visibility at dawn.

The earliest practical and populated location for greeting any new year dawn, however, is on New Zealand's Chatham Islands. This location is favoured by Japanese television companies, who descended there on December 31, 1989, to transmit satellite pictures of the dawn of the Nineties.

The Chathams (47°S, 176°W) comprise four islands where the sunrise is more than half an hour earlier than even the summit of Mount Hikurangi. Head Farm on Pitt Island, which is worked and owned by Ken and Eva Lanauze, seemed to be accepted as the prime accessible location for first toasting in the year 2000, word came of unexpected competition.

President Tito, the President and head of government of the independent Kiribati (pronounced Kiri-bassi) announced to the world that he had single-handedly rearranged the International Date-line running through his 16-year-old country of 36 islands.

This meant that the easternmost uninhabited Caroline Islands (9° 58'S, 150° 13'W) could hypothetically upstage all comers. Tonga and the Chathams included. These 20 islets, rising to a height of 20ft, have a combined area of less than 650 acres. Appropriately enough, the national flag of Kiribati features a rising sun.

The International Date-line was established by the International Meridian Conference of 1884. It passed and still passes at 180 longitude through Kiribati (formerly known as the Gilbert Islands). The chances of receiving international ratification of a new, and huge, eastward kink in the International Date-line is slim.

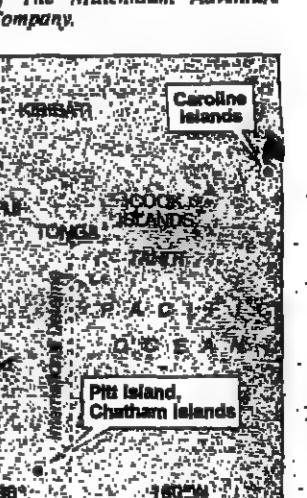
The groups promoting the waterless, unpopulated Caroline Islands as the first uninhabited place to see the sunrise

may find bureaucratic hurdles of higher magnitude than they bargained for.

Very high altitude appears to be the little-known plan of a group of balloonists, who believe that an extremely expensive high ascent over the South Pacific might upstage all the contending terrestrial sights.

For all the ingenuity, contortions and distortions, the solid fact remains that the earliest new millennium sunrise from a terrestrial, accessible and populated site will be North Head Farm on Pitt Island. Along with the rest of the Chathams, Ken and Eva Lanauze will be able to greet the millennium midnight in their unique time zone a full 45 minutes ahead of anyone else in the world.

• Norris McWhirter is the founding editor of the *Guinness Book of Records* (1954-86), and a director of *The Millennium Adventure Company*.



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Face to face with the lookalikes

Your face can be your fortune if you are a double for the famous — until your doppelganger falls out of the headlines. Joseph Connolly looks into the strange world of the lookalikes

Did you know that John Major was born in Glasgow in 1947, the son of a bricklayer, left school at the age of 15 in order to join the Merchant Navy and then got a job on the shop floor of a Weaver to Wearer?

It must be true because before my very eyes across the table in the cosy gloom of Gerry's Club in Dean Street, Soho — one of the few places, apparently, where the Prime Minister feels comfortable and at ease — he is telling me so, pausing only to sip a glass of claret and puff on the first of a succession of fags.

The resemblance of Peter Friel, flooring consultant, to the righthand incumbent of 10 Downing Street, is really quite extraordinary, even close up. It is only when he speaks that the spell is broken, for instead of the flat and ponderous tones one expects there comes a light, quite clipped and undeniably Glaswegian accent.

Did he never consider classes to teach him to speak as dully as his illustrious "doppelganger"? "That would really be too much — I'd talk like that forever, and then I'd go nuts." For here is the truth about the very sane, witty and affable Mr Friel — unlike most lookalikes, he has never done anything at all to encourage or bolster his resemblance to Major.

The hair? Natural silver colour, always had it in that very same style. The heavy TV-screen glasses? Been wearing them forever. The invisible dark blue suit and stripy tie? The clothes of choice. As to the very slightly pigeon-toed walk and the nearly indelectable stoop of the shoulder: inherent. When did Friel first become aware of his accidental potential for a useful second income?

"It was in 1990, when John Major made his first television speech as Chancellor; it was quite a shock



Is it really him? Roy Hattersley meets the Prime Minister's lookalike Peter Friel. The look is completely natural, right down to the hair, spectacles and suit. Friel says

seeing myself on television. Others noticed it, too, of course, so I got myself an agent through the Yellow Pages. I thought it might be a bit of fun; didn't expect it to last six years." (Maybe Major didn't either.)

How does it feel to be stared at by people who think you are someone else? "Initially it was very strange indeed — stranger still when really quite famous people were deferential to me. This happened even when I'd opened my mouth and blown my cover. A typical event for me would be a business gathering; I don't have to do anything, just stand around with a drink — not smoking, of course. It was an odd feeling. I wasn't me, but I wasn't Major either. Nowadays it just seems natural."

On the night of the last general election, Peter Friel was dining at Stringfield's at the invitation of the eponymous owner (naturally enough) while each constituency result was flashed up on giant screens. He lost count of the number of people who came up and congratulated him: "You're doing a fine job, sir!" they cried.

I did not strike one of them as a little odd that the Prime Minister should be spending the evening alone with Peter Stringfield in his nightclub on election night. Friel wags his head in mute disbelief. "Some people I meet are so stupid it's a wonder they're allowed to vote at all."

There are some things he will not do. "An American magazine of-

fered me \$25,000 for a photoshoot surrounded by beautiful naked women. I didn't do it — not just for the sake of Major's image: I myself didn't want to. At some events I attend there are topless Page 3 models — you have to make sure when the cameras go off that you are looking the other way, otherwise it would be embarrassing for both of us." And the real John Major might take heart: he is propositioned a fair deal too. "I don't take them up on it," smiles Friel, "you don't know where they've been."

Friel was married for 17 years and has a grown-up son. Now he is single again, this and his flexible day work as a flooring contractor allowing him the freedom to take on Major jobs as and when they

come along. "They're sometimes very short notice — you can be measuring by day, and two hours later dining with Marilyn Monroe, Winston Churchill and Elvis, while opposite you the Queen is stuffing her face."

How does he get on with all the other lookalikes? "Some are very nice, many of them are crazy. There are three Queens — Jeanette Charles is the best, and a perfectly pleasant woman. But Elizabeth Richards — she behaves very imperiously indeed: thinks she's the Queen even when she's having a cup of tea. Once on a train to Manchester, people were looking at me and not her — she was, how can I put it, not pleased."

The expression on Friel's face suggests that she would not have hesitated in decapitating the lot on the spot. "And Diana Ross gets very carried away — really believes she's a superstar: it's very sad. Michael Jackson is white and Irish with a terrible wig held on by an elastic band. Pauline Bailey does Marilyn — she's very nice."

There is only one other John Major lookalike now (many have fallen by the wayside). He more resembles the Prime Minister's brother Terry than anyone. "I've never met him — he has refused to appear with me. There's a Tony Blair, but I haven't met him either."

"Some lookalikes become incredibly arrogant — the sad thing about the ones who take it to heart is that they are always the ones who look least like their characters. Sad, too, are the ones who are suddenly out



Imperious: Elizabeth Richards

of work because their character is a has-been. There's nothing doing for Max Bygraves, for instance."

"There's one 30-year-old I know who wears all the wigs, make-up and timewarp clothes of a once huge pop star, I won't say who. He walks around airports so that people will look at him. One of the Princesses Disney sleeps with absolutely anyone. Thatcher, of course, was dropped like a stone."

So what are Mr Friel's prospects? "I'm under no illusions. If Major fails in the next election, my phone stops ringing. But he won't — he'll be in with a majority of between 25 and 30." A spot of wishful thinking? "No," says Friel. "I was right last time — I said a majority of 22, and it was 21."

What is Friel's personal view of the great man? "I admire him a lot, although I've never met him — maybe for obvious reasons. Best Prime Minister since Macmillan, Thatcher was the worst thing that ever happened to this country." But Friel is a Tory, is he? He pauses. "I suppose I am now," he says.

Are there any downsides to this very singular job? "I worry about security a bit. Once I was alone in an airport in Northern Ireland and felt none too happy. I avoid pubs — there's always a fool who'll have a go." This is why he comes to Gerry's. "It's safe here," he says.

"Safe. Some lookalikes complain about the fees, but I think they're fine — between £150 and £400 for hanging around doing nothing: it's not as if you need *talent*, or anything."

And what are the reactions to customers waiting to be measured up for a new carpet? The doordrill rings and there on the mat is the Prime Minister. Friel's eyes twinkle behind the famous spectacles in a very Majorly manner. "They're floored," he says.

Vulgarity is skin deep

gently disguised by cosmetic artists.

that ranchers used to mark their cattle. This practice was to find an unhappy echo in the Nazi death camps.

During the skinhead reviv-

al of the late 1970s, acquaintances of mine ruined their hands and arms with inexplicably applied tattoos. One even had a large blue spider's web tattooed on his face — it was an act of sullen disillusionment.

Darren Hirst's sheep suspended in a tank of formaldehyde, the image of physical abuse and disintegration in the movie *Transporter*, the nihilistic fashion for body piercing and self-mutilation, the resurgence of interest in tattooing — all are part of an end-of-century obsession with the body.

Nowadays, though, so urgent is our quest for novelty and so eager are we to gesture at rebellion, that tattooing has acquired a modish respectability.

Jean Paul Gaultier's models are festooned in semi-permanent, washable tattoos. The actor Johnny Depp has the name of his lover engraved on his arm.

Now that's respectability.

Divine Brown, the prostitute with whom the actor Hugh Grant enjoyed a few spare moments in a car on Sunset Boulevard, reportedly has a large tattoo on one of her buttocks. And Ivana Trump, Michael Jackson and Teresa Gorman have all experimented with having their eyebrows tattooed.

For Madonna, Julia Roberts, Ulrika Jonsson, Paula Yates, Zoe Heller, Beatrice Dalle and Pamela Anderson, to name but a few, the tattoo is simply a statement of high fashion.

Tattoo parlours are to be found in some of London's most fashionable shopping areas — Kensington and Notting Hill, to name but two — making the acquisition of one every bit as easy as buying the latest midriff-bearing hipsters.

The wearing of either, or both, signals simply the desire — and the wherewithal — to be an upmarket conformist.

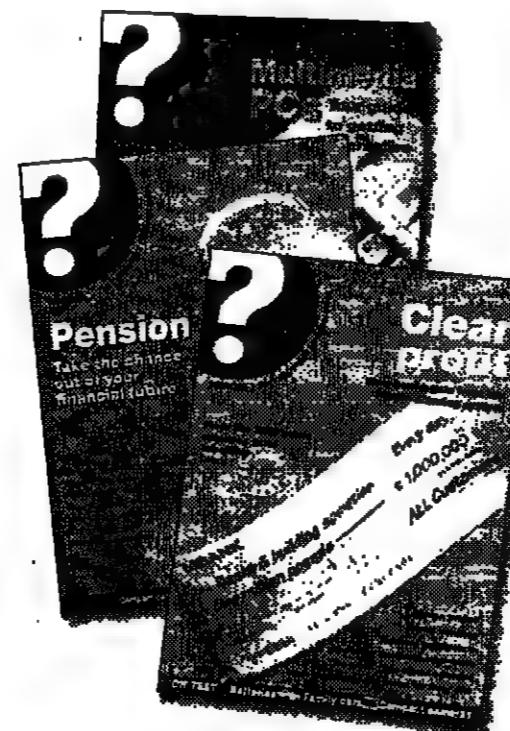
Poor Madonna, Ulrika, Paula and the rest of our

mischievous gang.

So much for radical chic.

The sad truth is — tattoos today are merely irredeemably square.

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**ARTS
THE WEEK
AHEAD**


THEATRE
Nancy Meckler does the business on Tolstoy's *War and Peace* at the National
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



MUSIC
Roger Norrington brings an "authentic" *Macbeth* to London's Guildhall
CONCERT: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



BOOKS
Picasso and Portraiture throws new light on the artist's work
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday



MUSICAL
Grimm stuff: the Royal Academy of Music stages Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods*
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

Judith Chernaik invites entries for the first London *Poems on the Underground* poetry competition

A Tube platform of your own

Ever since we started posting poems in London Underground carriages, poets have been sending us their work, with verse arriving daily from prisons and nursing homes, primary schools (with crayon drawings) and adult education courses. The romance of the Tube travels well: we have had manuscripts from Kharkov in Ukraine, Transkei in southern Africa, China, Taiwan, Tokyo, Australia and New Zealand. But our arrangement with London Underground limits us to published work, and until now we have had to return most unsolicited poems.

Now, ten years on, we have taken a great plunge into the unknown, hand in hand with *The Times Literary Supplement*, which is underwriting our first joint poetry competition. New and established poets are invited to submit unpublished poems of no more than 15 lines, on any aspect of urban life. Three prizewinning poems will be displayed on the Tube and published in the TLS; the first prize is £1,000, with two runners-up prizes of £500 each. We expect a huge and varied entry, and should end up with a fine collection of poems on urban themes — material for several more years of Underground poems.

We hope aspiring poets will find the theme challenging: cities, immortalised in all their prosaic squalor by Dickens, Balzac or Dostoevsky, can be resistant to the Muse. But there is a long and honourable tradition of urban poetry going back to the classical poets and their 18th-century English heirs — Pope, Swift, Gay and Johnson — all of whom wrote wittily about the pleasures of the "dear, dam'd, distracting town".

The Romantic poets, naturally, took a darker view. Poems engraved in the pavement of the South Bank Jubilee Walk, between Westminster Bridge and Waterloo, include Blake's indictment of mercantile London: "I wander thro' each charter'd street/ Near where the charter'd Thames does flow/ And mark in every face I meet/ Marks of weakness, marks of woe."

A few steps further along, we find Shelley writing from Italy, contrasting that "Paradise of exiles" with "London, that great sea, whose ebb and



**Great was my joy with London at my feet —
All London mine, five shillings in my hand
And not expected back till after tea!**

John Betjeman's words and Hugh Casson's illustration form part of the series that has been making London travel a bit less dull for ten years

flow/ At once is deaf and loud,
and on the shore/ Vomits its wrecks, and still howls on for more."

Probably the best-known of all London poems is Wordsworth's description of Westminster Bridge at dawn: "Earth has not anything to show more fair... This City now doth, like a garment, wear/ The beauty of the morning; silent, bare/ Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie/ Open unto the fields, and to the sky."

The truth is that city life will always have its lovers, hence its chroniclers. And, as it

happens, our next set of poems, appearing later this summer, includes three London poems: Mimi Khalvati's *humming Chopin on the Circle Line*, Herbert Lomas on pigeons practising sexual harassment in Greenwich Park, and Robert Herrick, 17th-century poet of *Brooks of Blossoms, Birds, and Bowers*, ecstatically celebrating his return to London from a "long and irksome banishment" in Devon.

And the poems transcend culture and nationality. We have now "exchanged" poems with Stockholm Transport and the New York City Subway. Poems by James Berry and Wendy Cope were on Helsinki trams last November, with Jean "Binta" Breeze

to write about modern life — which, for most of us, means the city. Almost every major city now displays poetry on its public transport system, a curious development which suggests that vast numbers of people hunger for intimations of beauty, grace and wit in their ordinary working lives.

Most puzzling (and touching) of all is the fact that poets dream of seeing their most intimate thoughts on view in a public place, to be shared with

and Ted Hughes represented in Oslo buses, courtesy of the British Council. The Paris Metro has Shakespeare and Whitman (in French translation) alongside Ronsard and Mallarmé. It might be pleasant to offer Eurostar travellers poems at Waterloo and the Gare du Nord — Baudelaire's *L'invitation au voyage* perhaps, with Shelley's *Ozymandias* ("I met a traveller from an antique land").

Most puzzling (and touching) of all is the fact that poets dream of seeing their most intimate thoughts on view in a public place, to be shared with

thousands of strangers. Hence this competition. We hope it raises enough funds to enable us to continue offering the public poems by Shakespeare and the unsung Anon. But above all we'd like to encourage new work by established poets, and, best of all, to discover new voices.

• The author is co-founder of Poems on the Underground
• For entry forms for The TLS/Poems on the Underground Poetry Competition 1996, send an e-mail to Poetry Competition, The TLS, Admiral House, 66-68 East Smithfield, London E1 9XY. The closing date for entries is July 30.

FRINGE THEATRE: A question of life or death movingly explored; Ancient Rome updated

Claire Luckham came to prominence with the fierce, feminist comedy *Trafalgar Tanzi, Benedictine Nightingale* writes. As she confides in the programme for *The Choice* (at the Orange Tree, Richmond), she also has a brother with Down's syndrome. If you were to suspect that she has decidedly mixed

Dramatic profundities

feelings about abortion, you would be right. I don't think I have seen a more moving treatment of the subject, or one that more fully recognises the complexities often inherent in

the tug between life and choice.

Mostly, the play involves Sal (Eve Matheson) and her partner Ray (Charles Simpson), who are devastated to discover that the much-wanted baby she is expecting has Down's syndrome. He wants the birth to go ahead; but she, who had convinced herself she could handle a backward child, finds her heart telling her the opposite. The scene in which her 22-week pregnancy is ended left a woman opposite me in tears and I must admit activated the lump I keep in my throat.

Where does Luckham stand? Nowhere fixed and ideological, that's for sure. This impression is strengthened by the presence of a narrator, cautiously called The Writer, who cuts into the action to tell us of her brother, an affable soul who lives in sheltered housing yet reads, writes and takes a lively interest in European history. At the end we see photos of him, blowing out the candles on his 50th birthday cake, but Luckham is careful to emphasise that many Down's syndrome sufferers are far more helpless than him.

For a bit I thought that the gynaecologist who oversees all

to learn why the girl has disappeared and why her mother won't let them into the room.

The explanation is that Philumena was raped by a stranger three months before her marriage, and eventually we learn that three months before his marriage Pamphilus raped an unknown girl. In the original denouement makes for a happy ending because nobody is shown to be upset by the rape, my guess is that this is why Terence kept the raped girl off the stage because what could he give her to say?

Such an aching void won't do for us, and Godfrey gives the women some credible reactions while keeping them within the framework of the artificial story, drawing attention to this with his amusingly formal dialogue. The mothers-in-law are a particularly happy invention. Anne Firthbank and Elize Hunt expressing dismay with perfect poise and vowels. Godfrey also gives individuality to the fathers-in-law: Ron Davies businesslike, David Peart a hopeless ditherer.

The play is a trifle, neatly achieved by Godfrey and Ramin Gray on a virtually two-dimensional set from Lucy Weller stretching lengthwise along the theatre. The Romans' acceptance of rape as little more upsetting than a banana skin is certainly weird.

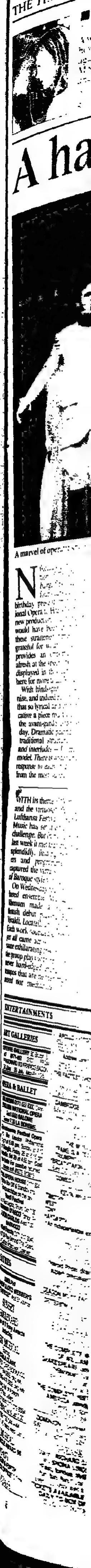


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A widow learns how to live again in *Moonlight and Valentino*
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



DANCE
At the Point in Dublin Michael Flatley launches his *Lord of the Dance*
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Monday



POP
Hyde Park becomes a Who's Who of veteran rockers for The Prince's Trust concert
GIG: Saturday
REVIEW: Monday



JAZZ
Dazzle on the ivories: Oscar Peterson brings his trio to the Barbican
GIG: Saturday
REVIEW: Next week

ARTS
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY IN SECTION 2

A happy birthday tribute



A marvel of operatic know-how from Germany's leading composer: *The Prince of Homburg*, presented by ENO to honour Hans Werner Henze

Nikolaus Lehnhoff's production of *The Prince of Homburg*, first seen in English National Opera to Hans Werner Henze. A new production of a more recent work would have been even nicer, but in these straitened times we must be grateful for what we get. At least it provides an opportunity to marvel afresh at the sheer operatic know-how displayed in this early piece unseen here for more than 30 years.

With hindsight you can also recognise, and indeed relish the shockwaves that so lyrical and instantly communicative a piece must have sent through the avant-garde establishment of the day. Dramatic pacing is faultless in a traditional structure of short scenes and interludes — *Wozzeck* is plainly a model. There is wide variety of musical response to each stage of the drama, from the most succulent love duet to

fierce, crisp battle music. Every bar of the piece grabs your attention, and every scene is precisely weighed as to how many notes it needs — precisely, and almost meanly. In just over two hours of music, there are moments when you are left wanting more, which is not something that can be said of every 20th-century opera.

The Kleist play from which Ingoborg Bachmann's libretto is drawn has long been all things to all men. The cavalry commander of the title, a decidedly un-Prussian dreamer, absemininely disregards orders in battle and although victorious is court-martialed. He pleads — via women! — for clemency, and only when he publicly recognises the justice of the death sentence is he reprieved. In 1810 this was considered a shocking slur on the military caste; later in the century the

OPERA

Prince of Homburg

Coliseum

play was interpreted as a patriotic call to arms; it was written in the context of the Napoleonic Wars, and under Hitler it was thought to demonstrate the desirability of blind obedience to orders.

After the war, then, a little exorcism was necessary, and Henze-Bachmann certainly provide it. The qualities of discipline and order that the Prince recognises in the play become those of individual freedom and human dignity: feeling is all, and it is feeling that pulsates through music written in the first flush of Henze's love affair with Italy. The tension between Mediterranean sound and Prussian action is entirely creative.

I am not convinced that the tension is recreated in the Lehnhoff staging, a thing of somewhat frigid beauty. An omnipresent gauze lit in an aggressive

shade of Queen Mother blue separates both the scenes and, unfortunately, the audience from the stage. It may have worked well in Munich's tiny Cuvilliétheater, but works less well at the Coliseum: there is an inevitable distancing effect and not all the singers surround it, especially when they are placed far upstage.

Peter Coleman-Wright, ideally Hamlet-like in the title role, certainly succeeds, and so does Christopher Ventris as his Hohenzollern confidant; both manage to project much of Fred Bridgman's singable translation. Susan Bullock soars freely through Henze's luxuriant vocal lines as Natalie — quite lovely — and William Cochran (house debut) will make more of the Elector when he grows accustomed to the Coliseum's acoustics. For the orchestral playing under Elgar Howarth, nothing but praise.

RODNEY MILNES

WITH its theme of "Virtuosity and the virtuous", this year's Lufthansa Festival of Baroque Music has set itself a special challenge. But in two concerts last week it met that challenge splendidly, fielding performers and programmes that captured the virtuous essence of Baroque style with ease.

On Wednesday the Utrecht-based ensemble Musica ad Rhenum made a welcome British debut playing Bach, Vivaldi, Locatelli and Quantz. Each work sounded different, yet all came across with the same exhilarating freshness — the group plays with brisk but never hard-edged energy, in tempos that are neither mannered nor mechanical. The

slow movements never dragged, perhaps a reflection of these musicians' research into Baroque metronome markings.

Locatelli's Sonata in D minor for violin and continuo, Op.6, was most striking of all for the exuberant flourishes within its Adagio and an extraordinary coda-cadenza which Anton Streck dispatched with aplomb. In the Brandenburg Concerto No.5, Marcel Bussi's harpsichord playing was impressive. But the programme focused on works for

CONCERTS

Lufthansa Festival

St James's, Piccadilly

two flutes, and Jed Went and Marion Moonen spun long lines on their soft-grained Baroque instruments. Vivaldi was featured the following night. Four works of dazzling, varied invention — we need to forget the cliché about Vivaldi composing the

continuo were framed by a sonata and concerto for oboe, both played on the wonderfully pungent Baroque oboe by Gail Hennessy. The wedding serenade *Gloria e Imeneo*, a 45-minute sequence of recitals, arias and two duets, proved captivating, not least for one chromatically twisting number.

Gloria Banditelli and Sarah Connolly, two contrasting mezzos, blended well, but in spite of Banditelli's darker tone and linguistic advantage, Connolly seemed the more expressive. Bolton, directing from the harpsichord, kept the work flowing swiftly.

JOHN ALLISON

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OPERA & BALLET

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Matthew Parris



■ Before we become completely irrational about child abuse, we should ask what it really involves

There has seemed in recent days a hint of McCarthyism in the air: something very faintly reminiscent of Salem, Massachusetts, in the time of the witches. Here is Bernard Levin writing 30 years ago, during the Profumo affair, on Britain's fevered interest in high-society decadence. Lord Denning had completed a report, investigating a snapshot which omitted a partygoer's head.

... even in years so copiously provided with material on which madness could feel fat, there was one episode which stands out from the decades, and still stands out, as a monument to the willingness of man to suspend the operation of reason ... how it came about, almost exactly two thirds of the way through the 20th century, that a country as advanced as Britain, that a judge should have been obliged to ask a doctor to examine the penis of a politician, is something so extraordinary, and in many ways so significant, that it deserved examination as detailed as that which the Prime Minister underwent?

Am I wrong in detecting the whiff of Salem again, this time on another matter?

I was never abused as a child. At my boarding school and in the Boys' Brigade I had no brush with abuse. As an adult I have never been prey to any sexual interest in children. I am beginning to wonder whether I am abnormal. For a public mood seems to have arisen according to which this is an almost engulfing evil of our times.

Let me suggest reasons for unease. Language provides useful pointers to suspect reasoning, and whenever this subject is raised, even by way of a real-life case, one is struck by the swift, sharp retreat into the most unspecific term available — "abuse". Like "heresy", "un-American activities" or "dabbling in the occult", the term raises a dark and general presumption without actually telling us what happened. If it was abuse, well of course one is against it. But what? Was it consensual or forced, or something in between? Was it the pat of an arm, sitting a child on a knee, the stroke of a leg, the touching of a groin? Was it (what some now claim) amounts to abuse words alone?

Did it involve genital arousal, or even penetration? Penetration of what, by what, how? Which party led the other on? How much did the child mind, and what might the adult have thought the effect on the child to be? How old was the child? Five? Ten? Fifteen? It does seem to matter. Far from being questions of detail, subsequent to the central fact — "abuse" — such questions are surely primary. Those seeking to generate an uncritical sense of general

Our feelings about sex are a weird knot of reverence, disgust, dread, guilt and desire

thousands of good people who love and work with children are made to feel guilty or confused about their motives. These will be the tangle of impulses, some blameless, others suspect, that fuel any career.

I do not discount the claim that sexual activity between adults and children is more prevalent than we used to think. Living in rural England I suspect there is truth in that. But I also know that all kinds of other things are more prevalent than we think, and that human beings are remarkably resilient, quite secretive, not always damaged by experiences you would suppose damaging, and tend to survive.

And I think of all the dreadful ways in which we hurt children every day: by words, by indifference, by sarcasm, by brutal ignorance of their needs and talents, by breaking their will and their self-confidence and, more than anything in Britain, by neglect: spending not nearly enough time with them. Sometimes I wonder whether we expiate our guilt over failure in the commonplaces of childcare by retreating into alarm at practices less common and more exotic.

I hope you do not think I am callous about child abuse. I am not; just unsettled by something in the present public mood.

Before his election to Parliament, George Gardiner was for ten years the political correspondent of Thomson Regional Newspapers; in the mid 1960s I used to meet him in Thomson House, in Gray's Inn Road, where *The Sunday Times* was then printed. He had recently come down from Balliol College, Oxford, with a first in philosophy, politics and economics; he already had all the journalist's delight in the details of political manoeuvre.

How would one have described him in those days? He was a rather lanky true blue Tory, with his right-wing political principles bred in the bone. He was serious about his politics, whether as a journalist or later as a candidate. He was certainly intelligent, but not particularly creative. He had a shyness or awkwardness of manner; I was rather surprised to hear that he had been selected for Reigate, with its large Conservative majority. But of course other and more successful politicians of the time, notably Ted Heath and Enoch Powell, had a similar awkwardness. If George Gardiner lacked the common touch, he was in good company.

His right-wing views made him a natural Thatcherite from the start. He even wrote a short biography of her as early as 1975. He voted for her for the leadership; he supported her as Leader of the Opposition, and he supported her for 11 years as Prime Minister. For some reason, perhaps because the whips found him a little prickly, perhaps because he was too active a right-winger in canvassing committee votes, he was never given office, but he became an increasingly influential backbencher, reaching the executive of the 1982 Committee in 1986. He did not go into the City or make money, and is still a comparatively poor man. He has throughout spent all his time on his political work, and is regarded as a very conscientious, though not particularly popular, constituency Member.

Now George Gardiner is in trouble in Reigate. On Friday evening his constituency association will be meeting in Reigate Grammar School to decide whether to select or deselect him as the Conservative candidate for the next election. The outcome will be important to the Government if he is not supported. George Gardiner has said that he will resign, and there will be a by-election, which would probably be lost. He is not himself expected to fight the by-election, and would be making a big financial sacrifice, but he has made up his mind. I have spoken to him and do not doubt that he will do what he says.

If the Conservatives lose Reigate they lose their majority, and will depend, precariously, on Ulster Unionist support to get through next winter. The Conservatives would be expected to lose an early general election, possibly by a landslide. By the spring they hope for a more favourable economic and political climate. The Reigate Conservative Association could therefore be deciding the result of the next election, or at least the size of a Labour majority.

There are a number of issues. There has been some feuding inside the association, partly on geographical grounds, partly personal and perhaps party social. The pro-Gardiner south of the constituency is thought to be rather grander than the north, and Surrey is conscious of the social nuance. George Gardiner's personality is part of the problem. He is said to be weak on the wine and cheese.

My own guess is that George Gardiner's threat will work. Central Office, which does not really like him, is

working hard to support him, for fear of a by-election. He has even been warmly praised at a constituency dinner by the irritable Brian Mawhinney, for whom it must have been almost intolerable to have to be polite to a dissident backbencher. Central Office actually has nothing much against George except that he is an anti-Maastricht Thatcherite who has lost confidence in John Major: in that he is not alone in the party.

The troubles in Reigate are fairly typical of the disturbed state of many constituency associations. The Conservatives regularly reconstitute their constituency parties in opposition. In 1945, the associations were run down after the war; after that election defeat, new people came in. The parties were probably at their greatest post-war strength in the early 1950s. A similar process took place after the defeat of 1964 and again after 1974. No new defeat has brought in a large recruitment since 1974, more than 20 years ago. Young Conservative numbers have fallen disastrously. In many constituencies the leadership is very elderly. Those over 70 are not as active or as keen as they were.

In their periods of strength, Conservative associations have worked very closely with Conservative leadership in local government. The losses of local government seats were bound to damage the associations as well; they have lost their councillors and their vital contact with local power. Some associations have not

been able to raise enough money to pay for agents, and the organisations have deteriorated. As they get weaker, and membership falls, they tend to become more divided, because there is no convincing leadership to hold them together. There are local disputes, about which part of the constituency should hold the key offices: these can arise from boundary changes. There are comic social disputes, with shrill war cries of "out-of-touch snobs" and "double-glazing salesmen". There are, however, fewer disputes than there used to be between the young and the old — because there are few young people left.

The Conservative Party in the country is now weaker than at any time since the mid 1940s. All the work of the stalwarts, from Lord Woolton onwards, seems to have been undone, partly by neglect, partly by lack of political motivation and partly by attrition. Of course, television has made local organisation less important than it was: it is the television campaign which gets the message across, and gets the vote out.

There are exceptions to this depressing picture. Yet most of the associations show the symptoms of decline and confusion. The majority of active Conservatives are loyal to John Major because he is the leader, but a majority are also increasingly sceptical about European policy. They find Kenneth Clarke's views on the single currency outrageous; he is not personally unpopular, but his views are. They are not sure that the Government, with its almost daily blunders, really deserves to win the next election, but they do not at all look forward to a Labour government. They have been beaten, too often in local elections. Their morale is low. George Gardiner has to contend with the backlash of all these complex reactions. John Major can only hope that his own loyalists will not turn George Gardiner out and force a by-election.

William Rees-Mogg

An escapologist out of luck

John Major has wriggled out again, says Peter Riddell, but can he survive the people's test?

John Major is condemned to survive. He has repeatedly faced, or set himself, political traps from which he has eventually escaped. Starting with the endless Maastricht saga, through successive European battles, to the leadership contest of a year ago, and now the Florence summit, Mr Major has confounded predictions of disaster and defeat to win a short-lived respite. Each time, there has been talk of a fresh start, only for familiar problems and party divisions to reappear within weeks, if not days.

The compromise over the beef ban was probably about the best that could be achieved in the circumstances. A framework now exists for the phased lifting of the ban linked to British steps to eradicate BSE — and that was the main aim when the non-cooperation policy began five weeks ago. But despite the confident claims Mr Major is likely to make in the Commons this afternoon, there is no definite timetable, and there are many ifs and buts typified by the vague statement of the Italian presidency about exports of beef outside the European Union. I would not bet on eating British beef in Johannesburg, let alone Bonn, for a long time.

The deal has at least allowed

Britain to drop its damaging policy of non-cooperation over EU decisions.

Mr Major, and Malcolm Rifkind yesterday, have predictably claimed that the agreement would not have been possible without the blocking tactics. This is unprovable. It is not only denied by other countries but ignores the fact that the real change in the past month has been the submission by Britain of detailed proposals for removing BSE, includ-



ing the slaughter of more cattle than originally suggested.

The non-cooperation policy probably made little difference to the summit deal, or its timing, but it has undoubtedly weakened Britain's long-term position in the EU. The affair has confirmed all the doubts that the rest of Europe has about the Major Government. A direct result is likely to be an intensification of efforts in the inter-governmental conference (IGC) to bypass the British veto, via treaty amendments on qualified majority voting, and by allowing an inner core of countries to press ahead with closer integration regardless of British objections. Mr Major also favours what has become known as "variable geometry", but only if all countries agree to new arrangements for flexibility on partic-

ular issues. Britain does not want to suffer from being outside an inner monetary or political core. This dispute will surface at the two Dublin summits, in October and December.

The beef row has also muddled

domestically. It has aggravated, rather than lessened, Tory divisions over Europe. The unusual resilience of most sceptics over the weekend mainly reflects a shrewd tactical judgment that the real battle is about the IGC, since they are privately very critical of what Mr Major has achieved. There could still be rumblings of dissent from farming MPs in the Commons, although Labour's criticisms are undermined by its misguided tactic of half-hear-

ing the non-cooperation. And to satisfy his own sceptics, Mr Major may now feel he has to sound tougher about the IGC, even though he is likely to stop well short of their desire (shared by some in the Cabinet) to repatriate powers from the EU. This is likely to increase further the disenchantment of the Tory pro-Europeans.

Mr Major hopes now to highlight Tory differences from Labour on the national veto and European social policies. But the beef row has been a damaging distraction, preventing the Tories from focusing on opposition policies before the publication of Labour's draft manifesto in ten days' time. Labour has been able to hide many of the arguments involved in drafting, especially over public spending. Mr Major launches his

much-trumpeted assault on constitutional reform on Wednesday, but I doubt it will be as much of a vote-winner as he believes, despite many flaws in Labour's approach.

All the talk about a beef war or a snap "patriotic" election — admittedly more in the press than in the mouths of ministers — has now been shown for the empty nonsense it always was. Naturally, contingency plans exist for an autumn election, since one could be forced by the disappearance of the Tories' majority or events in Ireland, but most of Mr Major's top advisers still favour next year. Few in the political world seem to have noticed two recent announcements by Tony Newton: first, that there is "virtually certain" to be an overspill session to complete legislation in October, making an election then difficult; and secondly, that the Budget will be on November 26, ruling out a post-Budget election at the end of this year. Both could change, but announcing them now narrows the Tories' freedom for manoeuvre.

Labour's current lead in the polls may be exaggerated, but the Tories are still much further behind than before any of their past victories. The pick-up in Tory support in yesterday's poll in *The Sunday Times* is too isolated to provide firm evidence of a revival (a clearer guide will come from the MORI poll in *The Times* later this week). It is absurd to link Tory fortunes to England's success in Euro 96, so far: voters know the difference between Terry Venables and Mr Major. Anyway, sporting success has never helped a party in the past. Contrary to the belief of even senior politicians, England won the World Cup in 1966, four months after Harold Wilson won a 100-seat majority, not before, and there is no evidence that England's loss in 1970 played any part in Wilson's defeat a few days later.

Having sensibly defused the beef confrontation, Mr Major has little choice but to slug on, probably until next spring. But the challenge then may be beyond even his skills as a party manager and escapologist.

Chop of bother

THE Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, appalled music-lovers at the Aldeburgh Festival at the weekend when she disrupted a Mahler symphony during a quiet movement by taking off in a helicopter outside the hall.

Nanny Bottomley had already surprised concertgoers with her arrival in a black chopper with flashy go-faster stripes. Swinging her handbag and humming a soft "Ing-ger-land, Ing-ger-land" when she alighted, she explained that she had been at Wembley where the

game had overrun: the helicopter had been the only means of getting to the concert on time.

Those attending the concert at the Snape Maltings were of a different cultural persuasion from the full-bellied football supporters she had been chanting with earlier.

"Too awful," remarked one. "She parked her helicopter bang next to the hall. The Queen parks hers up the hill, out of sight."

After the interval, Nanny jumped back into the cockpit. Her pilot cranked up just as the orchestra was playing the haunting evocation of a child's vision of heaven from Mahler's Fourth. "Why she couldn't leave during the interval I don't know," complained an Aldeburgh veteran. "It was deafening — very vulgar behaviour. I am assured by the Heritage Department that the flight was beyond her control: the concert's sponsor, the Eastern Group, paid for and organised her flight. She says it was a wonderful concert and very much regrets any disturbance," said her press assistant. "But the helicopter had to get back to its heliport in time, so she had to leave early."

• The Princess of Wales's brother, Lord Spencer, has come up against a formidable authority in Cape Town. The head of the girls' school attended by his young daughter Kitty has turned down his repeated requests to allow a bodyguard to accompany her during school hours. Quite right too.

More Cash

JOHN MAJOR may resent her giving money to Bill Cash, but Baroness Thatcher was back loyally fund-

raising on Saturday night, at Belvoir Castle near Grantham. She was the Duke of Rutland's guest of honour at a £100-a-head bash in aid of the Tory fund for marginal seats. Some £25,000 was raised. British beef was eaten and the lady received a seven-guinea salute from the 18th-century cannon.

As the sun set, she rose above the bentlemen to address the troops. "She was loyal and inspiring," gushed the duke. "I announced the football result at dinner." The baroness was very keen that England should have a chance to demolish Germany.

What a hoot

ALAN AYCKBOURN and Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *By Jeeves!* has run into a spot of bother

with the local constables. Simon Day, who plays Gussie Fink-Nottle in the P.G. Wodehouse adaptation is due in court in Scarborough next week, on the day of the first night in the West End.

He is up on a boisterous charge which Gussie, the new-fangled, might well have committed himself. "I borrowed my landlady's car and she said I was insured. But it rather turns out that actually I wasn't," he stammers. "And I forgot to do up my seatbelt and the police pulled me over."

"When they asked if it was my car I panicked a bit and said it was. They asked if I had a licence and I said I did have one but I'd lost it. I jolly well hope the court will accept a letter putting my case, or I could be in the stocks at curtain-up."

Of a kind

ENGLAND footballer Stuart "Psycho" Pearce's triumphant penalty at Wembley on Saturday was one thing. Yesterday, he lived another dream. A former punk rocker himself, he popped down to Finsbury Park in London with an escort from the Football Association for the chance to meet his favourite band, the Sex Pistols, when they came on stage. "He's here to watch the Pistols. He's one of their greatest

fanzines," says *Anarchy in the UK* by the Sex Pistols remains his favourite track. On the door of his gym at Nottingham Forest, a notice reads: "Mad Dog's Health Spa. No jeans. No guns. No knives." Punk compilation tapes blast out from the dressing-room at the Forest, where other players have to suffer his tasteless taste: the Stranglers, the Clash and the Damned.

Pearce watched the game between Germany and Croatia while backstage, and was expected to watch the Pistols when they came on stage. "He's here to watch the Pistols. He's one of their greatest fans." And he has been invited to watch their next concert in July.

• After driving herself to the Queen's Cup polo in Windsor Great Park yesterday, the Queen appeared to be in a frigid mood. She stomped past the crowds of youngsters without a smile or a wave. And matters didn't improve. When Kerry Packer's team won the trophy for best-dressed team, the bus of a horse fell off its pedestal and the Queen had to press it in. Pearce, who once wrote for punk

P.H.S.

MISRE

THE NIGHT

The skills of doc

Gillian Erickson

dedication and

she is grateful to her

specialist

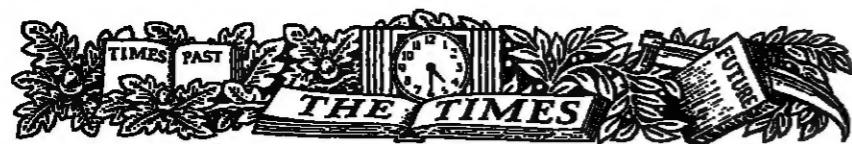
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HISTORIC RIGHTS

The amendments to the Defamation Bill should be dropped

This Government's principled attempts at law reform have been bedevilled by special pleading from sectional interests on its own back benches. The Family Law Bill suffered at the hands of Tory moralists and now another measure, conceived from the best of motives, has been unhealthily amended. The Defamation Bill, which reaches its report stage in the Commons this afternoon, goes to the heart of free speech in this country. It is in the interest of the governed that the Government acts to ensure that the Bill does not pass as it currently stands.

The Defamation Bill implements many of the sensible reforms proposed by Lord Justice Neill and his committee on Britain's arcane libel laws. It is designed to encourage newspapers, when they have got something wrong, to say sorry promptly and prominently by way of "offer of amends". If damages cannot be agreed these will be left up to a judge, rather than a jury's whim.

But these overdue reforms have been overshadowed by some ill-judged amendments. Relations between politicians and press are often frosty but the fierce criticism and uncomfortable exposure that many MPs have recently endured have strained relations further. Unfortunately, the Defamation Bill has been scrutinised against a background of grinding axes.

There are two amendments in particular which should be reversed. The first was introduced in the Upper House by Lord Hoffmann and would allow MPs to waive parliamentary privilege. At present Neil Hamilton, MP, has had his libel action against *The Guardian* stayed because Article 9 of the Bill of Rights 1689 states that nothing done in Parliament shall be questioned in the courts of law. If Mr Hamilton's behaviour in the House cannot be questioned in Court I in the Strand, then the action cannot continue.

Mr Hamilton and his supporters are therefore anxious to be able to waive privilege when it suits their purpose. They would then be able to pursue libel actions

against newspapers which had accused them, say, of tabling questions for cash.

Legislation which would enable an individual Member to waive Parliamentary privilege to sue, but not be sued, would be patent self-interest on the part of MPs and could bring the whole House into disrepute. A clause to amend the Bill of Rights should not be tagged on to a Defamation Bill simply because of one MP's misfortune, however great. Mr Hamilton is in the uncomfortable position of finding it difficult to clear his good name. It is a pity he is so hamstrung, but the privilege afforded to MPs was designed to protect the whole House over generations and not one individual MP in one Parliament.

When the Bill was in committee, MPs decided to delete a clause recommended not just by Lord Justice Neill's committee but also by the Porter and Faulks committee in 1952 and 1975. This would have prevented plaintiffs in libel actions from receiving damages which they did not deserve because they already had a tarnished reputation.

Members of Parliament, because they have to put themselves up for re-election, are sensitive to scrutiny of their affairs. MPs were unhappy with the idea that defendants might be allowed to mitigate damages by producing evidence that the plaintiff had an unsavoury reputation. They were alarmed by the prospect of a newspaper arguing that an MP innocent, for example, of accepting cash for questions was not entitled to "substantial" damages because he had been cheating on his wife or failed to disclose everything in the Register of Members' Interests. They characterised this clause as a muck-rakers' charter and it was dropped without a division.

It will be difficult for a Government only too conscious of the strength of backbench feeling and aware of its own fraying authority to reverse these amendments. But the ancient liberties of our constitution and the vigour of a truly free press should not be eroded by submission to special pleading.

MISREADING NETANYAHU

Israel's actions do not justify a hasty Arab response

The period since the Israeli election has seen frantic activity both within that country and among its neighbours. Much of that has consisted of a selective interpretation of the intentions of the new Government. The Arab summit conducted over the weekend in Cairo was called in panic response to the ascendancy of Likud.

Binyamin Netanyahu has been dealt a complicated hand. He does have the special authority of being the first Israeli Prime Minister to emerge as the result of a direct ballot of that country's citizens. This strengthens his own personal authority. This advantage, however, comes loaded with difficulties.

There are no precedents for how one uses this enhanced status to produce a new administration in what is still a parliamentary system. In order to be the exclusive centre-right candidate in last month's contest, the new Prime Minister needed to conduct numerous deals among the factions of his own party that he is now expected to repay. Furthermore, the arithmetic of the new Knesset placed unusual power in the hands of a myriad of immigrant and religious parties.

Too much has been made of the process that led to the new Cabinet, in particular the way in which Ariel Sharon attempted to barter himself into office on the basis that David Levy would not serve as Foreign Minister unless he was included. This has been allowed to obscure two significant developments. The first is that by the standards that the Israeli electoral system of proportional representation permits, this Cabinet has been assembled with relatively little inter-party rancour. Mr Netanyahu

was permitted 45 days in which to present a team to the Knesset. He did so easily in under half that time.

Secondly, the controversy over Mr Sharon has smothered the encouraging appointment of reformers — notably Dan Meridor and Natan Sharansky — to the key economic portfolios. Clearly, in office Likud will follow a path closer to the free market model set by Shimon Peres than its own vague pronouncements on the campaign trail.

That emerging pragmatism should be given time to develop in other fields before outside figures rush to judgment. Mr Netanyahu has toned down his more polarising pronouncements on Israel's relations with surrounding states. While the advance promise offering surrender of the Golan Heights in exchange for diplomatic recognition from Syria has been precluded, virtually all other issues remain in play.

There was thus little that the weekend Arab summit, the first of its type for six years, could have achieved. President Mubarak was unwise to orchestrate the event which did nothing for pan-Arabism and hardly encouraged the Israelis to move in a more accommodating direction. If the Middle East peace process is to develop further, it will need a rather more measured response from all sides.

Analysis of Likud's record to date does not suggest that it will be impossible for Arab leaders to do business with it. This will be a Government where the Prime Minister has a personal mandate and should command a majority in the Knesset. Mr Netanyahu has said he is willing to talk without preconditions. He should be taken up on his offer.

THE NIGHTINGALE TRADITION

The skills of doctors and nurses increasingly overlap

Gillian Erickson is a nurse of skill, dedication and enthusiasm. Patients throughout the Liverpool area have reason to be grateful to her. For 20 years she worked as a theatre nurse, assisting in complicated operations at the Clatterbridge Hospital. Last year she decided she had gathered as much experience as any surgeon, and with the permission of the hospital, picked up the scalpel herself. She has since performed more than 200 operations, removing cancerous growths, carrying out biopsies, controlling unsupervised surgery from the point of incision to final stitching. Her work has so impressed consultants that they now refer patients to her and she has been asked to help, informally, in training junior doctors.

Sadly and predictably, news of her good work has brought her only brickbats. Self-appointed spokesmen for medical groups deplore the use of "unqualified" nurses to plug holes in the cash-strapped National Health Service. The Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association expressed "shock and alarm" that a nurse was doing a job normally done by a doctor. There is talk of the row two years ago when a Truro nurse was forced to retire early after taking part in an appendix operation. Comparisons are being made with animals, on which only qualified vets can operate.

Most of this criticism is misplaced. At best, it takes too narrow a view of medical

skills, elevating academic qualification over proven experience; at worst it is self-serving protectionism, a kind of old-fashioned demarcation dispute by doctors jealous of their pay and status. Good nurses have long performed quasi-medical functions, administering injections, swabbing wounds and inserting catheters. Would many patients themselves not feel more confident having routine surgery carried out by an experienced nurse with a sure manner than by a young, exhausted and often inexperienced junior doctor?

The problem is largely one of perception. Too often a hospital matron is seen as a figure from the *Carry On* films: a stout and intimidating haridan, quick with sharp word and a sharp needle and all too enthusiastic to administer an enema. Doctors, too, are stereotyped by their fictional portrayal, which only emphasises, for dramatic effect, the hospital hierarchy. But in truth most skills overlap, as do most qualifications. This symbiosis is increasingly recognised by both the British Medical Association and the Royal College of Nursing, which have cautiously welcomed the expanding role of nurses. Gillian Erickson has, quite properly, informed patients that she is a nurse, not a doctor. And to her credit, they have entrusted themselves to her care. She exemplifies the best of the Nightingale tradition.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Opportunities for Labour in power

From Mr Nicholas A. H. Stacey

Sir, The chances of Labour in power after the next election are real; assisting them to govern Britain more successfully since last in office is not a partisan political matter but an objective to strive after.

Socialists are inclined to less laissez faire, which might prove useful in their renewal plans for Britain. However, dirigism is not enough in statecraft. Nationalisation was dirigist, but it did not improve the efficiency of industries it embraced. When in government Labour lacked the will to induce more investment in manufacturing or improve productivity by uncomfable industrial reorganisation and the selective support of the new high-tech industries.

Labour, having more intellectuals in its ranks than the Tories, is impressed by research as an activity, an aristocratic hangover. Labour should be supporting technology more purposefully than research — so that British inventions may be exploited in Britain rather than abroad.

The policy of laissez faire in Britain since the 1920s has failed to improve productivity because written-off equipment produced better profits than expensive new plant. Labour must incentivise industrial leaders to focus on investment for a more competitive British industry.

Also, the Bank of England should be persuaded to encourage more investment by venture capitalists in new companies. Management buyouts do not add much to the GNP and possibly reduce employment; a successful new company does, and creates new employment.

Britain needs an industrial policy to support expanding companies and encourage the formation of many new firms.

Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS A. H. STACEY,
Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1.
June 20.

From Mr Mark Corney

Sir, Philip Bassett's report in Business Today suggests that Labour is rightly offering the following deal to Britain's employers: train under-18s to identifiable public standards and you will be exempt from having to pay them a national minimum wage. Nevertheless, the question remains whether this is the entire deal on the table.

Last month the party published *Target 2000 — Labour's plans for a lost generation*. The document states that everyone under 18 should be studying for at least one day a week and insists that "employers will have an obligation to ensure this happens to their employees".

Consequently, Labour needs to explain whether employers will be expected to pay for training associated with day release through a "youth" training levy, or whether employers can expect the Treasury to provide additional public spending for courses at further education colleges.

Yours sincerely
MARK CORNEY (Director),
MC Consultancy,
Osborne House,
3-5 Portland Road, Hythe, Kent.
June 20.

From Mr Philip Ansley-Watson

Sir, I assume the proposals intimated by Clare Short to tax "less efficient" cars more heavily (report, June 21) refer to vehicle excise duty.

She should realise that there is an existing method of penalising those vehicles which use more fuel: the existing fuel duty. For example, the annual fuel bill for my wife's 2-litre Renault 25, which travels about 6,000 miles per year, is the same as that for my 1750cc diesel Rover 200, which does some 10,000 miles per year.

It is not clear how the "efficiency" of a vehicle is to be measured; if it were by engine size my Rover would attract more tax than my 1000cc Mini, although both consistently achieve 40 miles per gallon in widely varying driving conditions.

Why not scrap vehicle excise duty and increase fuel duty? I estimate it would cost about 12 pence a litre (54 pence a gallon), bringing the price of fuel to about £3 a gallon.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP ANSLEY-WATSON,
46 Hurstlane Avenue,
Staines, Middlesex.
June 21.

From Dr John Coker

Sir, Tony Blair proposes that shareholders be given the right to vote on pay packages for executives (report, June 18). This is commendable, and I hope he will apply it also to television and radio so that, as a licence payer, I can vote on the bloated fees paid to some performers by the BBC.

Yours sincerely,
J. COKER,
31 Kings Road, Alton, Hampshire.
June 18.

From Dr P. H. Borchers

Sir, I hope that Tony Blair will extend his proposal to permit electors to determine the salaries of Members of Parliament, ministers and even the Leader of the Opposition.

Yours sincerely,
P. H. BORCHERS,
71 Swarlowe Road, Birmingham.
June 18.

Endangered whales and the species that may be culled

From the Ambassador of Norway

Sir, There are some 80 different species of whale, and it is therefore imprecise to speak of whales as you do in your leading article, "Sleep of the deep" (June 18; see also report, same day), in the singular.

Norway's position on whaling is clear: no endangered whale species should be hunted at all. Norway only hunts the minke whale, which is quite abundant in the northeast Atlantic. Last year's sighting survey once again indicated that the stock of northeast Atlantic minke whales can be culled in a sustainable manner.

Each and every one of the 35 fishing boats licensed to catch minke whales this year carries on board a specially-trained veterinary inspector whose task is to report on every whale caught, as well as seeing to it that Norwegian government guidelines for minke whaling are followed. There is no possibility for the Norwegian whalers to mislead, or in any way circumvent government regulations, guidelines or quotas.

Minke whaling is carried out by small coastal fishing boats, not "factory ships", as your leader seems to imply. They do not have processing capacity, and must therefore make frequent port-calls in order to deliver their catches.

Finally, you refer to scientific whaling as a "loophole", while writing that "little is known about the whale". Scientific whaling is a legitimate research activity which has gained us most of our knowledge of the northeast Atlantic minke whale.

Indeed, only by seeking the best available scientific data and analysis, and basing policy decisions on it, can we ever hope to achieve a sustainable and prudent management of living marine resources, be they fish or minke whales.

Yours faithfully,
TOM VRAALSEN,

Ambassador,
Royal Norwegian Embassy,
25 Belgrave Square, SW1.
June 19.

From the High Commissioner of South Africa

Sir, South Africa is fortunate to have a number of whale species that not only enter our waters, but in the case of southern right whales, come very close to our shores. This provides a unique opportunity to watch these magnificent creatures of the deep at close range.

Historic merit of Colomberie House

From the Curator of Sir John Soane's Museum

Sir, I am deeply disappointed to read (report, June 20; see also report, June 18) that the appeal by the Prince of Wales to save Colomberie House in Jersey from demolition seems to have fallen on deaf ears. Its owner and the accountants, Coopers & Lybrand, have concluded that the property has "no significant architectural merit". I cannot agree.

Documents in our museum clearly demonstrate that on May 5, 1810, Sir John Soane sent a package of drawings to Clement Hemery in Jersey to modernise his existing 1770s house.

A comparison between copies of these drawings in our collection and the house as it exists at present shows that virtually all Soane's proposed improvements were carried out and still survive: the portico and front door, the

remodelling of all the windows and insertion of a secondary staircase, the marble chimneypiece in the breakfast room and all the internal joinery on the ground and first floors.

Coopers & Lybrand have also painted a gloomy picture of the present condition of the house. It is true the building has been neglected, but Poley Dean, an architect and scholar of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, found it to be in reasonable condition on March 7, 1995, with no visible signs of decay.

It could easily be restored — and deserves to be — as an authenticated work by one of our greatest architects.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET RICHARDSON,
Curator,
Sir John Soane's Museum,
3 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.
June 20.

Gilbert and Wallace

From Lady Christy Phillips

Sir, In your article, "Why lost treasures are returning to their roots" (June 12; see also leading article, same day), you quote Lord Rothschild, Chairman of the Heritage Lottery Fund, as saying that Arthur Gilbert had "donated the greatest collection of decorative arts ever given to this country".

Without in any way wishing to detract from Mr Gilbert's generosity, may I remind Lord Rothschild that in 1897 Lady Wallace, widow of Sir Richard Wallace (and herself French by birth), left to the nation 5,470 works of art. These are now exhibited at Hertford House, Manchester Square, London as "the Wallace Collection", and together comprise one of the great museums of the world.

Besides a splendid collection of fine

art, Lady Wallace donated a collection of decorative arts covering the 16th to the 19th centuries; porcelain, French furniture, clocks, bronzes, snuff boxes, majolica, enamels, glass, silver, etc., collected by the Marquesses of Hertford and passed on to Sir Richard Wallace.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN TABBUSH
(Vice-President),
The Anglo-Argentine Society,
Canning House,
2 Belgrave Square, SW1.
June 16.

Reform of marriage

From Mr Nicolas Walter

Sir, Is it time for the social institution of marriage — the permanent union of two people on the basis of an exclusive sexual relationship — to be separated from legal regulation altogether? I believe, June 20?

Rather than constantly amending the increasingly absurd laws about religious or secular ceremonies for weddings, or about harder or easier procedures for divorce, wouldn't it be better to make a clean break and accept that the State has no place in personal relationships?

Yours etc.
NICOLAS WALTER,
Rationalist Press Association,
88 Islington High Street, N1.
June 20.

Central Railway

From Mr James Turner

Sir, Central Railway's proposals will indeed take lorry freight off the motorways (letters, June 13, 17). However, to evaluate the environmental impact it is important to understand what new route this freight will take instead.

Central Railway's plan is to load the lorries on to trains half-a-mile long and run these 12 times an hour through existing "transport corridors". The effect will be that around 500



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 22: The Princess Royal, Patron, Minchinhampton Centre for the Elderly, this afternoon attended a Garden Party at Horfield House, Windmill Road, Minchinhampton, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwes).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 23: The Prince Edward, Honorary Chairman, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award for Young Canadians Challenge Charter for Business, this afternoon left Heathrow Airport, London, for Toronto, Canada.
His Royal Highness this evening attended a Presentation and Dinner at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club, Toronto Island.

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Chancellor, will confer honorary degrees at the honorary degree congregation at Cambridge University.

The Prince of Wales will visit the Isle of Man, embarked in *HMY Britannia*.

The Princess Royal will attend an event for existing and prospective donors to raise funds for the Starke Endowment Fund (UK) appeal at the Shell Centre, at 6.30pm.

The Duke of Kent, President of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, accompanied by the Duchess of Kent, will attend the opening day of the Wimbledon championships, Wednesday, June 26.

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron of the United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF, will attend a reception given by ITT Sheraton at the Park Lane Hotel at 7.00pm.

Memorial service

Sir Charles Oatley
A memorial service for Sir Charles William Oatley, Emeritus Professor of Electrical Engineering and Fellow of Trinity College, 1945-59, will be held on Saturday in the Chapel of Trinity College, Cambridge. The Rev Dr Arnold Brown, Dean of Chapel, officiated.

Sir Michael Atiyah, OM, FRS, Master of the College, read the lesson. Mr Michael Oatley, son, read a letter from Michael Faraday to John Tyndall, dated October 6, 1855. Professor Alex Bruce, FRS, Master of Churchill College, gave an address.

Nature notes

In young conifer plantations, nightjars are singing their trilling song at dusk; in the distance, the sound rises and falls as they move their head about. They also feed in the half-light, wheeling and zigzagging as they chase flying insects on their long wings. House martins are feeding young in their mud nests under the eaves: when they swoop up, their white rumps show like a flashing light. Young willow warblers are out in the birch trees: they are much yellower beneath than their parents, who in some cases have built a new, domed nest in the grass and begun a second brood. Many midsummer flowers are opening. On roadsides, purple-tufted vetch grows in small ladders, while the meadow vetchling, or yellow pea, clammers up the grass stalks with the aid of its tendrils. Hogweed is growing high, and bumblebees gather on its broad white flowerheads; henlock, which also has umbrella-shaped flowers, grows into tall feathery bushes and can be distinguished by the purple blotches on the stalk. Bramble bushes are covered with a mist of white flowers beginning to unfold. The first hay is being cut, and meadow brown and small heath butterflies flutter over the fallen swaths. DJM



The nightjar

Sexual imagery is at least 30,000 years old, while evidence for the use of alcohol goes back 7,000 years, and mind-altering drugs more than 4,000 years. Human nudity is attested by Palaeolithic figurines, almost all female. Dr Timothy Taylor said: "Their simple nakedness is likely to have carried an erotic charge in a cold, Ice Age society where physical nudity must have been uncommon — as in Victorian Britain." The explicitly-depicted bodies, with emphasis on breasts and buttocks, and the portrayal of vulvas in cave art, contrast with the lack of facial features, objectifying women as a category rather than individuals. Dr Taylor suggests in his forthcoming book, *The Prehistory of Sex*, women could have moved between communities, with men having several wives, he believes. "Males in cave art are often identified with stag and bison, animals that control harems."

Sexual activity and reproduction were already conceptually separate when the first written records appear some 5,000 years ago, Dr Taylor said. A female figurine from Hagar Qim in Malta shows masturbation, not childbirth as suggested by earlier scholars. Similarly, a male figurine from Larissa in Greece is clearly masturbating, reflecting "a central theme in the creation myths of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia", Dr Taylor said.

As soon as records appear, current sexual practices, including homosexuality, transsexuality and transvestism are alluded to, and are probably much older. Prudery, and a belief that premodern sex was essentially reproductive (and if it was not, it ought to have been), have kept our ancestors' sexual interests from us, Dr Taylor said. Some of them were certainly connected with fertility: "European population levels increased fivefold by the end of the neolithic; tall stones were erected over which the 'lifegiving' sun could be seen to rise, and in some places the rays of the sun penetrated artificial mounds via long passages at midwinter, as at Newgrange in Ireland."

Fertility was often controlled by plant-based drugs, such as the sulphur used by the Romans or the wild yam of the Maya, but plants could also yield mind-bending substances. Hyoscyamine, produced by several members of the potato family, is one of the most commonly used, according to Dr Andrew Sherratt. "This one division of the plant kingdom has produced more mind-altering substances than any other," he said. Mandrake, the thorn-apple used by the Aztecs, the jimsonweed of North America and the *pitcher*, widely traded by Australian Aborigines, are all related.

A British instance of hyoscyamine use in prehistory has now been identified, with henbane being "the mind-bending drug these neolithic hippies used", Dr Sherratt said. Remains of the plant were found in a lump of burnt porridge stuck to a postcard at the site of Balbridie in Fife. The site was excavated in the 1980s, revealing a wooden mortuary enclosure associated with Grooved Ware, pottery dating to around 4,000 years ago.

Henbane can be taken by human beings in small amounts, with a psychotropic effect that Dr Sherratt likens to shamanic spirit-flight. "In which the shaman visits the realm of the dead. Here was an esoteric knowledge worth possessing — how much to fly to heaven with the souls of the dead, and how much more for a one-way ticket with no return."

Obtaining such drugs may well have stimulated contact beyond the normal round of economic exchange, Dr Sherratt believes. "All these people went the extra mile not because they needed the calories, but because they wanted the special effects they got from certain plants."

Source: *British Archaeology* 15:8-9, 14

BMD'S: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

BIRTHS

COATES — On 11th June, to Barbara (née Pflueger) and John, a daughter, Natalie Lucy, a sister for the baptism. The baby weighed 7lb 10oz. (3.5kg). (The Coates and Coates Trust Funded) and Christened in a son (Alex John Frederick) in Paris on 20th June 1996.

KELLY — On 16th June 1996, to Sophie (née Murray) and David, a son, James David Francis, and a brother for Henry.

DEATHS

ACLAND — On 21st June, Bridget Seward wife of the late Peter Seward Edward Acland. Family funeral at Fonthill on Friday 23 June. No flowers.

DUNFORD — District Judge Daniel Francis Dunford of Cheltenham. Queen's Bench on 19th June, much loved husband of Cecilia and Jonathan. Funeral Friday 20th June at St Paul's at St. George's Church, Cheltenham. £1,200.

MILLER — Peacefully at home on 20th June 1996, Alan Miller, chairman of Mertonhill Bridge Holdings Ltd. Beloved uncle to David, Peter and Christopher. Funeral on Friday 27th June at Cheltenham Crematorium (East Chapel). Burial on Thursday 27th June 1996, at 10.30am. To which all friends and relatives are respectfully invited. No flowers please. Donations if appropriate to Parkinson's Disease Society, 10 Claremont Terrace, Gloucester. Vale of Glamorgan.

SLIBS — Vivian John Newman CBE, beloved brother of Hermione aged 92, on 19 June 1996. In the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, suddenly but peacefully. A cremation service for family and close friends will be held on Friday 27th June at 1.30pm. A Memorial Service is being arranged and will be announced shortly. Family flowers and tributes may be sent to King Edward VII Hospital for Officers c/o H.H. Bent & Co Ltd, Funeral Directors, 343 Ladbrooke Grove, London, W10 9HA.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, favourite of Elizabeth I, 1532; Alexander Adam, educator, 1741; Lazare Hoche, general, Montreuil, France, 1768; Sir John Ross, Arctic explorer, Baffinnoch, Dumfries, 1777; Henry Ward Beecher, preacher, Litchfield, Connecticut, 1813; William Henry Smith, statesman and bookseller, London, 1825; Horatio Kitchener, 1st Earl Kitchener, Field Marshal, Kerry, 1854; Adam Lindsay Gordon, poet, Brighton, Melbourne, 1870; Marie-François Carnot, President of France 1871-94, assassinated, Lyons, 1894; Grover Cleveland, 22nd President 1885-89 and 24th 1893-97; Princeton, New Jersey, 1908; Jack Dempsey, world heavyweight boxing champion, 1919-26, Manassa, Colorado, 1905.

DEATHS: John Hampden, parliamentary leader, Thame, Oxfordshire, 1643; William Smyth, poet, Norwich, 1849; Adam Lindsay Gordon, poet, Brighton, Melbourne, 1870; Marie-François Carnot, President of France 1871-94, assassinated, Lyons, 1894; Grover Cleveland, 22nd President 1885-89 and 24th 1893-97; Princeton, New Jersey, 1908; Stuart Davis, painter, New York, 1964.

Robert King defeated the English under King Edward II at Bannockburn, 1314.

The Grand Lodge of English Freemasons was formed, 1717. Pablo Picasso's work was exhibited for the first time in Paris, 1901. Russia stopped land traffic between Berlin and the West and the airlift began, 1948.

Dinner

Royal Society of St George
General Sir Charles and Lady Guthrie were the guests of honour at a dinner of the Royal Society of St George held on Saturday at Wellington Barracks to mark the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo.

Trinity Hall

The Commemoration of Benefactors was held yesterday in the Church of St Edward, King and Martyr, Cambridge, with a large number of members and guests in attendance. The address was given by the Master Sir John Lyons, LLD, FBA earlier in the day, details of the Trinity Hall 2000 Development Campaign, in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the College. Foundation were presented during a meeting in Hall. A reception and luncheon for the College's benefactors was held in the Fellows' Garden.

Morris Leigh

A celebration service for the life of Morris Leigh, PhD (Pitt), will be held on Monday, July 8, 1996, at The Central Synagogue, Hallam Street, London W1, at 6.30pm.

Forces chiefs may extend good conduct medals to officer classes

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

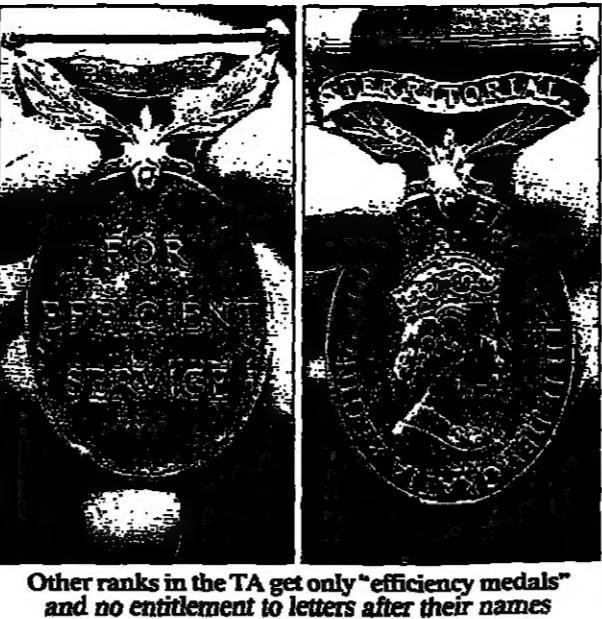
THE Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces are studying a special review board recommendation that officers as well as other ranks should be eligible for long service and good conduct medals, to eliminate an unfair disparity between them and their men.

Since the 1840s, only the ranks have been eligible for such medals. Officers were held to be above such things because it was considered unthinkable that a gentleman commissioned to serve his King or Queen would lead anything other than a blameless life.

Other ranks are presented with a silver medal after 15 years, provided their conduct has been "improachable", although assessment boards sometimes make allowances if the only stain on a serviceman's or servicewoman's career arose from some youthful indiscretion.

In another move to inject more equality into the Armed Forces, the review board has also recommended that officers of the Territorial Army and their counterparts in the naval and air force volunteer reserves who do get good conduct awards should no longer be allowed to put letters after their name indicating their loyal service.

At present, while a TA officer can proudly put TD — Efficiency Decoration (Territorial) — after his name, following completion of an unblemished 12 years of service in the reserves, the other



Other ranks in the TA get only "efficiency medals" and no entitlement to letters after their names

ranks in the TA get only "efficiency medals" and no entitlement to letters after their names.

Officers in the Royal Naval Reserve can boast an RD (Royal Naval Reserve Decoration) after their name, after 15 years. Officers in the Royal Auxiliary Air Force get an AE (Air Efficiency Award) after 10 years. The other ranks in the RAAF are given the same Air Efficiency Awards but only the officers can put AE after their name.

The review board, consisting of three senior officers representing each Service, and a judge, looked first at the gallantry awards, and, as a result, the Ministry of Defence announced in September 1993 that medals restricted to rank and status would be replaced by letters after the name.

At the higher level, a new award was also introduced called the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross for all ranks. Two non-commissioned officers — a colour sergeant and a corporal — have already been awarded the CGC for

courageous action in Bosnia. The board then turned to the more complex area of long service medals. In the 1840s when they were introduced, the aim was to encourage men to serve longer and to avoid drunkenness. Officers in those days were much more divided as a social class than they are today.

One senior officer said: "It would have been unthinkable for officers to have a long service award, it wasn't socially correct. Now, 150 years later, the social situation is totally different."

However, the recommendation to disallow letters after the name of long service volunteer reserve officers is expected to cause considerable anguish, because it is a much-treasured privilege. If the recommendation is accepted, it will not be enforced retrospectively.

General Sir Charles Gutrie, Chief of the General Staff, is understood to have given his backing to the changes. The two other Chiefs of Staff have yet to make their views clear. Once they do, the recommendations will be studied by Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, and then by a special department in the Cabinet Office responsible for all honours and awards, before going to the Prime Minister and, finally, the Queen.

For the regular forces, the plan would be to replace the present long service and good conduct award with a new medal to cover all ranks, possibly called the regular forces medal.

Archaeology

Sex and drugs 'are as old as the hills'

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

SEX and drugs were just as much preoccupations of our prehistoric ancestors as they are for some people today, according to two British archaeologists.

Sexual imagery is at least 30,000 years old, while evidence for the use of alcohol goes back 7,000 years, and mind-altering drugs more than 4,000 years.

Human nudity is attested by Palaeolithic figurines, almost all female. Dr Timothy Taylor said: "Their simple nakedness is likely to have carried an erotic charge in a cold, Ice Age society where physical nudity must have been uncommon — as in Victorian Britain."

The explicitly-depicted bodies, with emphasis on breasts and buttocks, and the portrayal of vulvas in cave art, contrast with the lack of facial features, objectifying women as a category rather than individuals. Dr Taylor suggests in his forthcoming book, *The Prehistory of Sex*,

women could have moved between communities, with men having several wives, he believes. "Males in cave art are often identified with stag and bison, animals that control harems."

Sexual activity and reproduction were already conceptually separate when the first written records appear some 5,000 years ago, Dr Taylor said. A female figurine from Hagar Qim in Malta shows masturbation, not childbirth as suggested by earlier scholars. Similarly, a male figurine from Larissa in Greece is clearly masturbating, reflecting "a central theme in the creation myths of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia", Dr Taylor said.

As soon as records appear, current sexual practices, including homosexuality, transsexuality and transvestism are alluded to, and are probably much older. Prudery, and a belief that premodern sex was essentially reproductive (and if it was not, it ought to have been), have kept our ancestors' sexual interests from us, Dr Taylor said.

Some of them were certainly connected with fertility: "European population levels increased fivefold by the end of the neolithic; tall stones were erected over which the 'lifegiving' sun could be seen to rise, and in some places the rays of the sun penetrated artificial mounds via long passages at midwinter, as at Newgrange in Ireland."

Men and women eat mandrake root, the thorn-apple used by the Aztecs, the jimsonweed of North America and the *pitcher*, widely traded by Australian Aborigines, are all related.

The Oratory School

Scholarship Examinations 1996

The following awards have been made:

Academic
Scholarships: E.L. Anderson, The Oratory Junior House; R.D. Brown, The Oratory Senior House; R.W. Gandy, The Oratory Preparatory School; D. Gaze, The Oratory Preparatory School; J. Hargreaves, The Oratory Preparatory School; J. S. Hartley, The Oratory Preparatory School; P. Jackson, The Oratory Preparatory School; R. Jones, The Oratory Preparatory School; R. Lewis, The Oratory Preparatory School; R. McLean, The Oratory Preparatory School; R. Parsons, The Oratory Preparatory School; R. Thomas, The Oratory Preparatory School; R. Williams, The Oratory Preparatory School.

Music
Music Scholarships: R. Winterbottom, Westminster Cathedral Choir School; R. Winterbottom, Westminster Cathedral Choir School; A. Williams, Westminster Cathedral Choir School.

Other
Scholarships: H. Baynes, The Oratory Senior House; J.P. Merton, The Oratory Junior House.

Sport
Sport Scholarships: R. Bell, The Oratory Preparatory School; R. Goss, The Oratory Preparatory School; R. Jones, The Oratory Preparatory School; R. Lewis, The Oratory Preparatory School; R. Thomas, The Oratory Preparatory School.

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Other
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Music Scholarships: R. Winterbottom, Westminster Cathedral Choir School.

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OBITUARIES

Andreas Papandreu, Prime Minister of Greece 1981-89 and 1993-96 died yesterday aged 77. He was born on February 19, 1919.

WHEN Andreas Papandreu first swept to power as Greece's Socialist Prime Minister in 1981, he appeared to embody the simple aspirations of a generation of Greeks frustrated in the years after the Second World War by political strife and right-wing extremism. By the time of his death 15 years later, after more than ten years in the prime minister's office — as well as four in opposition — it was not easy to envisage him in quite such austere terms.

This had a good deal to do with his acquisition of an apparently luxurious lifestyle and a glamorous third wife,

Dimitra — known in Greece as "Mimi" — a former air stewardess half his age who, before she had become his wife, had been a most publicly flaunted mistress. Latterly, as his health had declined, her power grew. By the time of his death she was head of his private office, had discretion over who might or might not see him and had announced her intention to run for parliament in the 1997 elections.

Many a minister who crossed her was left eating his heart out on the political sidelines. But repeated attempts to torpedo her progress — using fair means or foul — by the tabloid press failed completely. One publisher was recently sentenced to 16 months' imprisonment after being convicted of an "unprovoked insult" against her, having published a photograph that purported to show her cavorting naked.

But, in truth, from the very moment Papandreu had taken office for the first time, his administration had been forced to dilute the doctrinal purity of its more radical promises. Like similar governments it had to bow to the inexorable realities of a ailing economy — where to buy at affordable prices and how to obtain the cash to pay for the goods. This pragmatism forced about-turns that delighted his opponents and exposed contradictions that undermined his credibility.

At the outset he had given his party, the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok), a distinctly anti-Western orientation. This envisaged Greece's best interests as being served outside the Nato alliance or the European Community. A Greece free of American military bases and nuclear arms, in close rapport with the non-aligned nations.

In the face of endemic economic crisis none of that was sufficient to keep the electorate loyal to Pasok, and in 1989 it was overtaken in the popular vote by the New Democratic (ND) Party. Although ND had no overall parliamentary majority, severe heart trouble and news of his impending divorce from his popular American second wife tended to undermine Papandreu's position and, unable to form a government, he eventually resigned.

Successor administrations were able to fare no better, however. After being acquired, in 1992, of embezzlement charges, Papandreu, though continuing in poor health, took Pasok to victory in the

general election of 1993. This victory, combined with Greece's assumption of the presidency of the European Union at the outset of 1994, caused considerable anxiety among Greece's European partners.

In the event, Papandreu showed himself prepared to modify his stance. But the EU countries found themselves in further trouble over their recognition of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, since the name Macedonia is claimed by Greece as being inalienably Greek. But by this time Papandreu's health was in sharp decline and Pasok deputies had, of late, become increasingly vociferous in their demand that a successor be found for him.

He fell ill again in December 1995, suffering pneumonia which rapidly developed complications and he was admitted to the Onassis Cardiac Centre. His prolonged stay there led to political paralysis in Greece. Prompted by his wife, he refused all suggestions that he should resign and no one in his Cabinet dared to tell him that he should go. A succession of foreign doctors were brought over, including Sir Magdi Yacoub, and Papandreu spent weeks on life-support machines. Finally, he was persuaded to resign as Prime Minister by his son George. He rallied, and left hospital at the beginning of this year. But even up until the time of his death from a heart attack yesterday, he could never quite relinquish the reins of power and intended to stand again for the chairmanship of Pasok next month.

Andreas George Papandreu was born on the island of Chios, the son of George Papandreu, who was Prime Minister of Greece 1963-65, before being forced to resign by King Constantine II. He went to school at the American College of Athens and, in 1938 he enrolled in Athens University's law school.

A year later, after he had been arrested briefly by the security police of the Metaxas dictatorship for publishing a Trotskyist bulletin, his father sent him to the United States, where in 1943 he took a PhD in economics at Harvard. Becoming a US citizen in 1944, he had a successful academic career, teaching in several American universities.

In 1950, while he was chairman of the department of economics at the University of California at Berkeley, the then Greek Prime Minister, Constantine Karamanlis, invited him to return home and organise a Greek Centre of Economic Research. While on this assignment he developed a taste for politics.

Prompted by American friends who thought he would be their country's natural ally, he allowed himself to be persuaded by his father (eager to establish a Papandreu dynasty in Greek politics), to give up his US citizenship and stand for election to parliament. In 1963 George Papandreu won a narrow victory over the Right; in the following year he led his party to a landslide victory which took his son into parliament.

This prospect gave a pretext for a handful of army colonels (who had for long nursed plans for a putsch) to seize power overnight on April 20-21. Andreas and his father were arrested and detained, but later he obtained permission to go abroad where he set up the Panhellenic Liberation Movement, which was to become the nucleus of his political party after the junta's downfall in 1974.

After his return to Greece he claimed no political legacy from the Centre Party of his father, who had died during the dictatorship. He founded his own Panhellenic Socialist Movement which adopted a distinct left-of-centre posture, covering a

ANDREAS PAPANDREOU



the party's old-timers. This resentment, coupled with Andreas's attempt to secure his succession rights by befriending a group of young army officers, led to a Cabinet crisis in July 1965 and enabled the King to ease the Papandreous out of office.

The Centre Union party split and its defectors, with the help of the Right, governed for nearly 18 months. Andreas used this time to build up his personal power within his father's party, challenging in the process all the taboos of the Establishment, from the rights of the monarchy to the Army's political role, and the alliance with the Americans.

When, early in 1967, his father agreed to settle his feud with the King in conformity with the established rules, Andreas challenged his father's authority. The conflict was soon ironed out but it became clear that in the elections scheduled for May of that year (which the Centre Union was almost certain to win), Andreas would dominate his father's party and cause it to swing to the left.

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broad spectrum that reached the Marxist boundaries of the newly legalised Communist Party of Greece.

In the elections of November 1974 Pasok polled barely one seventh of the total vote, returning only 15 deputies in the 300-seat Assembly. Its policy took on sharp anti-American and anti-European overtones and Papandreu preached non-alignment in foreign affairs. In the three years that followed, however, Papandreu organised strongly and in 1977 increased Pasok's parliamentary representation sixfold, to 93, making it the second strongest party in Parliament.

Thanks to the average Greek's inclination to blame others for his troubles, his anti-American and anti-Nazi platforms seemed to be vindicated. The steady deterioration in the economic situation at home, combined with the switch of Karamanlis to the presidency of the republic, which weakened the ruling party, encouraged him to make his bid for power in the elections of 1981.

To increase Pasok's chances he tried to lure the centrist vote. He refurbished the party's image to show that it was not a revolutionary organisation but a respectable and dependable political party. He established cordial relations with Western European Socialists, and, above all, made occasional statements on Nato, the EEC, and the American bases that could be interpreted equally by the conservatives as a switch towards moderation, and by the Marxists as a tactical manoeuvre.

On October 18, 1981, Pasok won an unexpected victory over the New Democracy party under the Prime Minister, George Rallis. Papandreu's programme provided for

extensive "social control" of basic economic units, administrative decentralisation and popular participation in decision-making. And, though few of these grandiloquent promises were fulfilled, Pasok won an impressive second victory in a snap election in June 1985, thanks to his political manoeuvring and winning rhetoric. He eased out of office the conservative head of state, President Karamanlis, just before the elections, in order to persuade his disgruntled supporters on the Left that he had successfully removed the last obstacle to 100 per cent socialism. But his choice of a successor in Christos Sartzetakis was less than fortunate and he was soon to regret it.

During his second term the going became rough. The economy, exhausted by his lavishness towards the underprivileged, sagged dangerously. Inflation soared, state deficits and unemployment grew and so did the foreign debt. An austerity programme imposed for two years remedied some of the damage but it was terminated prematurely because the political cost was too high.

The outbreak of financial scandals, allegedly involving high-ranking members of his administration, culminated in the notorious Bank of Crete £130 million embezzlement and bribery case. Papandreu's own prestige had already suffered heavily because of his affair with Dimitra Liani, daughter of a distinguished army officer and the wife of a senior official of the Greek Communist Party. He chose her, rather than his American-born wife of 37 years, Margaret, to escort him when, in August 1988, he was suddenly flown to London for a heart operation. He survived against all odds and returned to

Greece to face a crisis within his party, prompted by the Bank of Crete scandal. Although many aspects of this touched him personally, he dismissed the allegations as a Western conspiracy to bring down his Government.

In the elections of June 18, 1989, when he was expected to suffer major reverses, he managed to acquit himself reasonably, securing two out of every five votes throughout the country. After several attempts to form a Government he tendered his resignation. Two days before polling day his divorce had become final and he subsequently married Mrs Liani who, he proclaimed *urbi et orbi*, had saved his life.

A period of political confusion followed, with several votes being held in quick succession to try to resolve the parliamentary deadlock. Eventually, in April 1990, ND managed to form a government, which soon however found itself beleaguered by strikes, demonstrations and illegal occupations of public buildings, in protest at its vigorous privatisation programme. In the meantime, in March 1991, Papandreu and three of his former ministers were brought to trial on charges of massive embezzlement from the Bank of Crete during their term of office. After a nine-month hearing Papandreu was acquitted of all charges while two of his ministers received only minor sentences (the third had died during the trial).

By the middle of 1993 the ND Government was in complete disarray in the face of unrest in both public and private sectors in the face of its policy of privatisation and wage restraint, and when it lost its parliamentary majority after the defection of two of its deputies a general election was called for October 10. Romping to victory, Papandreu announced a repeat of all his predecessor's privatisation policies. But when he sought to put this into effect in the case of the bus industry he immediately faced opposition from protesters, who blocked bus depots and had to be dispersed by riot police.

His country's presidency of the EU, held for six months from January 1994, momentarily raised his standing within Greece, though he felt it necessary to temper Pasok's highly anti-European stance, simply to give some plausibility to his country's tenure of the office. His sharp attacks on European Nato air-strikes in Bosnia and European attitudes to Macedonia were more popular at home, but the underlying weakness of the Greek economy continued to bedevil his Government. Rampant inflation and a huge budget deficit only added to the woes of a country which has a visibly massive gulf between rich and poor.

Papandreu himself, increasingly protected from outside interference by his wife and self-appointed chief of staff, drew criticism for his purchase of a luxury villa, apparently with interest-free loans from Cabinet colleagues. Latterly, in increasingly poor health, he had been unable to participate in the drafting of the 1996 budget.

He is survived by his wife Dimitra, and by the three sons, one of whom, Georgios, is Education Minister, and one daughter of his second marriage.



Ray Lindwall, MBE, cricketer, died in Brisbane on June 23 aged 74. He was born at Mascot, near Sydney, on October 3, 1921.

RAY LINDWALL was one of cricket's truly great fast bowlers, admired and respected by friend and foe alike. His total of 228 Test wickets was an Australian record, and, of those, 14 were taken in 29

Test matches.

When first-class cricket was resumed after the Second World War, England had no bowlers of more than a brisk medium pace. Not for six years had their batsmen's reactions been genuinely tested, so that when, in the winter of 1946-47, an MCC side went to Australia, they were confounded by the sheer speed of Lindwall's bowling. With the equally dashing and popular

him, and used the bouncer sparingly enough for it to be a weapon of surprise.

Raymond Russell Lindwall was born with a natural aptitude for games. By the age of 16 he was playing for St George, a first grade club in Sydney, captained at the time by the legendary leg spin and googly bowler, Bill O'Reilly.

Although O'Reilly was then past his prime, Lindwall always said he owed much to his influence, and the two of them played a few games together for New South Wales in the early years of the war and briefly afterwards.

Lindwall surfed well, was a

first grade rugby league full back, and a sprinter who clocked 10.8 seconds over 100 yards. He was also no mean batsman. In his first Test series, against England in 1946-47, he scored a century at Melbourne in only 115 minutes.

But it was as a bowler of infinite grace and rhythm and timing and menace and swing that he excelled.

There have been faster bowlers, men stronger and more fearsome, but there have been none cleverer. His arm was probably a shade low for his action to be perfect, yet this seemed, if anything, to make his swerve more subtle. He conserved his energy and changed his pace as it suited

him, and used the bouncer sparingly enough for it to be a weapon of surprise.

From the time that he returned from service with the Australian Army in New Guinea, All Stars and St Vincents, he was feared wherever he bowled. From 1954, when he was 33, it was more his love and enthusiasm for the game that kept him going. He was 38 when he played the last of his 61 Test hundreds. When, reluctantly, he retired in 1962, he had taken 794 first-class wickets at 21.35 apiece, and had long since moved from his native New South Wales to Queensland, where Sheffield Shield side he captained for five years.

Lindwall became one of the first full-time Australian professional cricketers when he went, in 1952, to play for Nelson in the Lancashire League. When there, he found that his natural outswinger beat the bat so often that he was obliged to perfect the ball that went the other way. He was soon so versatile that he could bowl six different balls in the same over, all on a length or thereabouts and all without seeming to stretch himself. When MCC was experimenting with a smaller ball it invited Lindwall to the Nursery ground at Lord's to see what he could do with it.

Lindwall survived his

injury and

RAY LINDWALL

The result was so devastating that the project was abandoned.

There are still many Englishmen who might say that if they could be granted one last wish in cricket it would be to see Lindwall opening the bowling in a Test match at Lord's with Len Hutton batting and Denis Compton to follow.

His playing days over, Lindwall became an Australian selector for a while, and with his wife he ran a florist business in Brisbane. He always kept his cricketing friendships in repair and came whenever he could to England. He was here for the last time towards the end of last summer as a supporter of the New South Wales side which was playing a match or two against Surrey. But though as cheerful as ever, he had suffered a minor amputation.

Lindwall's old partner, Keith Miller, has just been on a visit to England to see the current Test match. Cricket can never have known two more resplendent figures than he and Lindwall when they were hunting as a pair with Don Bradman's 1948 side to England, one of the strongest Australias ever fielded.

Ray Lindwall is survived by his wife Peggy and by their son.

Keith Miller, a former Test cricketer, died in Brisbane on June 23 aged 74. He was born at Mascot, near Sydney, on October 3, 1921.

RAY LINDWALL was one of cricket's truly great fast bowlers, admired and respected by friend and foe alike. His total of 228 Test wickets was an Australian record, and, of those, 14 were taken in 29

PROFESSOR ROB KIDD

Professor Rob Kidd, marine geoscientist, died of a heart attack on June 9 aged 48. He was born on September 17, 1947.

FOR more than two decades

Rob Kidd was a major contributor to the Earth's evolutionary data by means of deep ocean drilling. His studies on palaeogeography, sediment drift and high resolution stratigraphy were widely acclaimed, while his work on the formation of metaliferous deposits in the deep oceans was to pressure the 1979 discovery of the deep-sea hot water vents with their mineral precipitates and strange biota. This was to help to revolutionise 20th-century views of the planet.

Kidd's study of submarine currents and sediments culminated in the discovery of catastrophic giant sediment slides of kilometres along the ocean floor at great speed. The implications of this work for the environment is only now being realised.

More recently, in 1994, he redrew the map of the Mediterranean seabed, after discovering 21 new and active mud volcanoes, the largest of which he named after his home town, Milford Haven.

Ray Lindwall was survived by his wife Peggy and by their son.



family and educated at Milford Haven Grammar School, from where he went on to study geology at Kingston College of Technology. There his interest in sedimentology was ignited. He studied for a doctorate at Southampton University.

In 1973 Kidd became a visiting scientist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in California, where he carried out the first synthesis on sediment distributions in a developing ocean through time. It was here that he began his long-standing relationship with the deep-sea drilling programme. In 1975 he returned to Britain to the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences at Wormley, where he began his

studies on large-scale sedimentary features.

His academic career took him back to America in 1984 to become Professor of Oceanography at Texas A & M University.

Kidd returned to Wales in 1986 to work at Swansea, before transferring to the University of Wales, Cardiff, in 1989. There he established one of the most active seagoing geological and geophysical groups in Britain. He worked tirelessly to promote deep ocean drilling and in 1994 his efforts were rewarded when for two years his department was host to the offices of the Joint Oceanographic Institutions for Deep Earth Sampling. It was the first time in its 25-year history that this office had been located outside America. For Kidd it provided an opportunity to determine the future of deep ocean drilling into the next millennium and to ensure that key research into the global environment would continue.

Just days before his death, Kidd was presented with the Geological Society's Major Edward Coke Medal for his outstanding achievement in research and for his commitment to marine geosciences. He is survived by his wife, Rosalie, and by their four sons.

ON THIS DAY

June 24, 1908

The statues by Jacob Epstein on the new British Medical Association premises in London attracted adverse criticism but were stoutly defended by the artists Charles Ricketts and Charles Shannon

however, are neither indecent nor even remotely suggestive. The statue of "Maternity" represents a woman in pregnancy. This figure is turned towards the wall, and is so high up on the building that the particular feature to which exception is taken can scarcely be distinguished except by aid of an opera glass or a telescope; and there is nothing

NEWS

School tests give Shephard boost

■ A dramatic improvement in the standards achieved by 11-year-olds in this summer's national tests in English and mathematics has given boost to Gillian Shephard's step-by-step approach to education reform.

On the eve of the announcement of radical new plans to fulfil John Major's dream of a grammar school in every town the results, being published later this year, are valuable ammunition for the Education and Employment Secretary.....Page 1

Major says ban over 'within months'

■ John Major will today risk estimating the date that the worldwide European Union ban on British beef exports will be removed when he tells MPs it should be lifted completely "within months".....Pages 1, 7, 11

Prisons row

Michael Howard has clashed with the new Chief Inspector of Prisons and attempted to stop him discussing prison policy in public.....Page 1

Portillo returns

Michael Portillo is returning to the Conservative frontline to spearhead the fightback against the Labour Party.....Page 2

Wembley fury

Extra police were called to Wembley box office as angry football fans, many of whom had queued for more than 12 hours, threatened officials who refused to sell them tickets for the Euro 96 semi-final.....Pages 1, 3

Course victory

An exclusive golf club whose members include the Duke of Kent has lost the battle to ban commoners from its greens and fairways.....Page 3

Carry on nurse

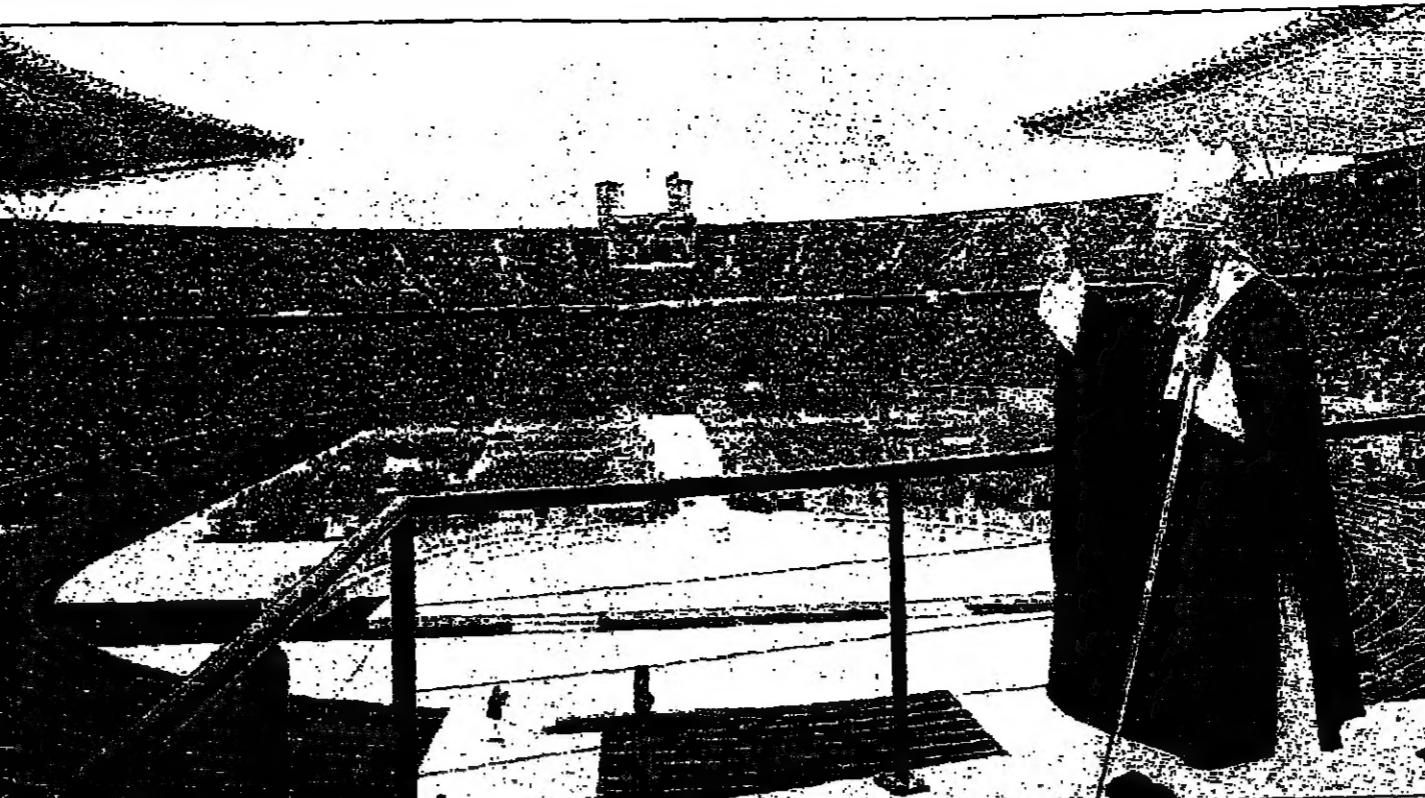
Patients have nothing to fear from nurses performing surgical operations as long as doctors retain overall responsibility for care, the British Medical Association said.....Page 4

Whale claim

Japanese fishermen have slaughtered one of the world's rarest whales in defiance of an international conservation agreement, environmentalists claimed in Aberdeen.....Page 6

Battle reccomendations at Little Bighorn

■ Old controversies threaten to reignite over the re-enactment of the battle of Little Bighorn, long considered a cornerstone in the US history of relations between Whites and Indians, an icon to doomed American courage and a bitter-sweet victory for the tribes. Tomorrow's rerun, marking the battle's 120th anniversary, is beset by claims of pro-Custer bias.....Page 13



The Pope waves to a 130,000-strong crowd yesterday at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin, which was built for the 1936 Games, during a Mass for the beatification of two German priests who opposed Adolf Hitler. Page 11

BUSINESS

Executive payoffs: Top executives of the planned Lucas Varity combine could collect £3.7 million in compensation payments if they are dismissed within five years of the merger.....Page 48

Energy row: The Government is likely to set a wide range of possible prices when it invites big investors to bid for shares in British Energy, the nuclear power company, this week because its advisers cannot agree what it is likely to be worth.....Page 48

Cash card: A new pre-paid electronic card launched today by the Royal Bank of Scotland would replace travellers' cheques by allowing travellers to extract foreign currency from cash machines abroad.....Page 48

Cell suicides: The trigger that leads cells to self-destruct has been discovered in Israel.....Page 16

White House helper: The White House struggled to play down the latest revelation about Hillary Clinton — her use of a spiritual guru for conversations with the late Eleanor Roosevelt.....Page 12

Mayan king found: An expedition led by *The Times'* archaeology correspondent, has found the remains of a bejewelled Mayan king, thought to have ruled about AD 450.....Page 13

Battle reccomendations at Little Bighorn: The White House struggled to play down the latest revelation about Hillary Clinton — her use of a spiritual guru for conversations with the late Eleanor Roosevelt.....Page 12

Scot's new job: Eddie McGuire, former chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland, has joined the board of the National Grid, the electricity transmission company.....Page 12

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